



MISS *S C R O P E*'s

A N S W E R

T O

Mr. *CRESSWELL*'s

N A R R A T I V E.

MRS. S. C. R. O. P. E.

A. N. S. W. E. R.

T O

M. C. R. E. S. S. W. E. L. L. S.

N. A. R. R. A. T. I. V. E.

Miss SCROPE's

A N S W E R

T O

Mr. CRESSWELL's

NARRATIVE.

PSALM lv. Verse 12.

*For it is not an open Enemy, that hath done me this
Disbonour: For then I could have born it.*—

—only to enrich a Name, which such an
Action would render infamous.——

NARRATIVE, p. 30.

L O N D O N:

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ERRATA.

PAGE 50, Note R, after "with Chearfullness" read
"engaged to assist me in my Scheme, accepted my
Promise, &c.

Page 57, Line 10, for Resolütios read Resolutions.

Page 83, Line 27, for Gad read God.

Page 100, Note G, Line 5, for she read he.

Page 152, Line 9, for Ditton read Gitton.

Page 181, Last Line, after to, read do.

Page 182, Last Line but one, for warrented read war-
ranted.

Page 187, First Line of Mr. Cresswell's Letter to Mr.
Lee, after have, read thought.

Page 195, Line 4, for Linen read Linnen.

Miss SCROPE's

A N S W E R, &c.

HOW miserable is my Fate, to have been oppressed with such an unmerited Load of Infamy, and for so long a Time incapable of attempting my Vindication! My Sex, which alone ought to have entitled me to a more favourable Treatment, and the little Communication I have lately had with the World, have denied me all Opportunities of making my Injuries known by Conversation; nor indeed would that Method have been proper, or effectual, for the Redress of them, while unforeseen Accidents, frequent Illness, and extreme Weakness, have hitherto prevented my Recourse to this.—I will own too, that I was not without Hope, that Shame and Remorse, in the Author of my Misery, (whose Conscience, as the Reader will find under his own Hand in the Sequel, was even before the Publication of his *Narrative*, so stung with Guilt and Horror, as to suggest an immediate Possession of the Devil) would have

B

extorted

extorted from him a Recantation, and thereby have saved me the Trouble of exposing him, under an Authority from which he has no Appeal, I mean that of his own Letters.—This long Interval, my Enemies have diligently employed in the wanton Exercise of the lowest and most abject Cruelty—in traducing and vilifying an helpless, unfriended, and greatly injured Woman—in spreading every Report, magnifying every Suspicion, and improving every Hint to my Disadvantage.—And all this (exclusive of their own natural Malignity) upon the bare Credit of the *Narrative*; the most unmanly Libel, surely, that ever put a Writer to Shame, and Paper itself to the Blush.—A Libel! upon whom?—upon a poor distressed Woman, who, by his past Barbarity, had been reduced to an Attempt upon her own Life—his nearest Relation in Blood, and whose every Deviation from Discretion, or Virtue, (had there really been any such) laid a stronger Obligation upon the Man, who thus basely exposes them to publick View.—Upon the Credit of this exquisite Performance, do my Enemies affect to justify their Usage of me, which from its Inconsistency in some Parts, and Improbability in almost all, I am sure, the bitterest among them would esteem of no Validity, in any other Dispute of the smallest Consequence. Such a self-confuting

Piece

Piece of Malice ought, indeed, to have turned the Hearts, and determined the Opinions, of all thinking People in my Favour, as the mean and scandalous Outrage upon that Sex, which most Men have treated with Tendernefs, at least, with Decency, ought to have influenced the most unthinking to detest the Author of it—such (Women especially) as are barely capable of reflecting, that they have any Characters of their own to lose, or to preserve.—But, alas ! in my unhappy Respect, the Effect has been very different ; and I am left to bear up against the Torrent of publick Censure, by an Appeal to the Publick, which has, perhaps, already condemned me.——To do this in Matters of private * Concernment, I agree with Mr. *Cresswell*, is very impertinent ; but to me, he has made it fatally necessary.——This Maxim, as true as it is common, I doubt not, will be largely reiterated by those, in particular, who have already indulged their inhumane Laugh at my wretched Expencc ; and to whom Proofs of my Innocence will give no farther Amusement. But let such recollect, how late this Remark takes Place in their uncharitable Mouths.——When I was to be publickly blackened, and defamed, how readily did they offer to be my Judges ? How unanimously pass the worst of Sentences upon

* See Preface to *Narrative*.

me? Let them remember, how they have treated, and still continue to treat, that one truly generous Man, who, for no imaginable Reasons of Self-interest, and very remote, as well as precarious ones of any other Nature, has been my sole Aid and Support; and to whom, indeed, I owe the Means of defending myself against the worst of Enemies, and of Men——But let the Merit of his Conduct, and the Necessity of my own, be fairly canvassed, in the following Relation; this small Hint of my Gratitude, I have, with Difficulty, obtained his Leave to express, and shall for ever despise that low Censure, or exalted Malice, which would render the Cause of it suspicious, and reduce me to sink the highest Obligations, in the Fear of acknowledging them.

Private Life is our brightest Station, and yet even there, so delicate is the Situation of every Woman, that, when her Reputation is once publicly called in Question, no Act of Virtue, in the previous Part of her Life, or the strictest Guard upon her future Behaviour, shall mediate so far in her Favour, as to cover, even the Suspicion of one single Blot in her Fame, or regain that Point of Character, which many Women enjoy, by being only not vicious——She is denied the Privilege of the meanest Criminal, who, in Matters of doubtful Proof
against

against him, is permitted to call Evidence to his Character, and very often acquitted upon a well attested Presumption, that he is not a Man likely to have committed the Fact in Question.

The Guilty ever implicitly condemn ; whether it be that (like a foolish People I have somewhere read of) they imagine, that whatever good Quality they can kill in another, shall be inherited by themselves ; or, are they in this particular really honest, and conscientiously judge of others by the Measure of what passes within themselves ?——The Weak condemn, being afraid to justify, or, justify, because they dare not condemn ; such generally float with the Stream ; and, as an Enemy is ever more loud and noisy, than a Friend, he seldom fails of engaging these in his Party.

But, with the truly Virtuous, and Understanding, I beg Leave to lodge my Appeal ; with them, only, I would entrust my Cause——where Truth alone will have Weight, naked as she ought to appear, and stripped of all those Disguises, and false Colourings, which Art, and Malice, and Weakness of Judgment, are so apt to throw over her. With them I shall be secure of a fair Hearing, and impartial Determination ; and with them, I have Room to hope for a mild Interpretation of those Inadvertencies, which, it was easy, for a subtile
and

and designing Man, to draw an unsuspecting Girl into, who truly loved him ; whose Love had a legal Sanction, and who thought it absolutely her Duty to obey him.—With them, simple Indiscretions will not be heightened into Acts of deliberate Vileness ; for I will not pretend to assert, that there has been no Appearance of Evil in my past Conduct——Mr. *Cresswell*, by his artful Contrivances, may have induced me to do, and, to omit, many Things, which, at first Sight, bear hard upon me ; and against which it was impossible for a Woman, of the most consummate Prudence, to guard, who acted, as I did, without any Apprehensions of Danger, and under the strongest Prepossessions of the Honour and Integrity of the Man she was engaged to——I have, indeed, been deceived by him ; but, in no Degree, a Partner of his Wickedness, which it is the Business of the following Pages to unravel, and lay bare to the World.

I call not those my Enemies who have only doubted of my Innocence, or even believed me guilty ; but such only as have personally, and virulently, persecuted me, not my supposed Crimes. How little I have deserved any, let the whole Conduct of my past Life declare. Is there that human Creature whom I ever voluntarily injured in Person, Fame, or Property ? Why, then, have I Enemies ? Is there

a Woman, whose Looks, and Words, and Actions, from fifteen to thirty (a long and difficult Term for such impracticable Hypocrisy) ever gave less Cause of Suspicion?—Why, then, am I condemned unheard? Is every Presumption against me to take Place, and not one in my Favour? And must a whole Life of fair Fame be tainted by the Breath of a Man, who, in the very Act of accusing me, confirms himself a Villain? If this be the Case, as in Fact it is, let those Women, of outrageous Virtue, who raise themselves, as they imagine, by triumphing in my Defeat, reflect how soon it may be their own—A Thousand little Accidents may blast the most flourishing, a Thousand trifling Calumnies obscure the brightest, Reputation; against which it may be as impossible for them to guard, as it has been for me; and let such Reflections teach them to extend that Mercy to others, they may one Day stand in need of themselves.

Affliction has taught me Patience, and set me above Ill-will to any one——Even Mr. *Cresswell* I forgive, though with the true Spirit of the Tempter (if you will trust his own Account) he first seduced, and then accused me. He is, indeed, my only Accuser; and, truly imitating the same wretched Spirit, all the Success he aspires to, is only to sink me down
into

into the same Abyss of Infamy, and Misery with himself. I hope for better, and hasten to my Story, where, if I fail to give Proofs of my Innocence, strong as the Nature of many Facts recited will admit, and such as ought to convince all impartial Judges; I desire, and deserve no more Compassion from the World, than I have experienced Honour, Justice, Truth, or Integrity from Mr. *Cresswell*.

Nar.p.23. I once designed beginning at the Time my Father lived in *Litchfield-Street*, the earliest Circumstance mentioned in the *Narrative*. I am sorry to tire my Friends, but, surely, they will not think it improper, if I take some Pains to shew, that the Regard I ever had for my Grandmother, when a Child, Years before I saw Mr. *Cresswell*, determined my living with her. He endeavours to persuade the World, that Love was my Motive, grounding on that Supposition those unreasonable, and indecent Advances he declares I made. This is my Reason for so early an Account.

When my own Mother died, I was about three Years old. My Grandmother *Cresswell* had lived with my Father from the Birth of his eldest Son, and continued with him a Year after her Daughter's Death. During the Time he courted, and was married to, his second Wife, she lived with her Brother, the late L—d D—e: Part of this Time I was in
London,

Lord Dunc

London, on Account of bad Health, when my second Mother died. She then returned with me to my Father's, and undertook the whole Management of us and his Family. I was now six or seven Years old, had lost all Remembrance of my own Mother, and looked upon my Grandmother as such. I am very confident, no Child ever had a stronger Affection for a Parent.

About four Years after was the Meeting Mr. *Cresswell* mentions in Town. My Father, Nar. p. 231 one Day walking in *Westminster*, accidentally met his Nephews (the two *Cresswells*) who were just then turned out of Doors, their Schooling and Boarding having been for Years unpaid. He brought them home, and they constantly eat with us till my Grandmother provided otherways for them. She returned again to *Lincoln*; but when my Father married his third Wife, left him.

Oct. 1728

This was a cruel Separation to my Sister and me; nor could Reflection, on the Reason of her going, lessen our Grief. We did not stay long after, but, extremely dejected, begged my Father to let us live with her. He, who never refused his Children any Thing reasonable, complied; and allowed fifty Pounds yearly for our Board. We attended her twice June, into *Shropshire*. One of the Times Mr. *Cress-* 1729, well came to take Leave, on his Voyage to

1730.

China. We had not seen him for near four Years before. Soon after he was gone, his elder Brother died, and my Grandmother was so afflicted, that her Life was in Danger. On our Return to *Lincoln* she had another severe Fit of Sicknefs. It is impossible to exprefs my Uneafinefs; I feldom left her Bed-fide a Moment, except at Night, and then frequently rofe to enquire after her. I fuffered all the Pain that a young Creature, of my Age, can be fupposed fufceptible of on fuch an Occafion; for I was not, then, more than fourteen. Soon after her Recovery, my Sifter went to my Father's, where ſhe constantly, from this Time, lived: I might have done fo too: Happy if I had! I did not, then, think fo; I was young, and, having the Choice of living with a Mother-in-Law, or continuing with a Parent I had the higheft Value for, and Opinion of, chofe the latter.

My Judges will declare this Choice prudent. Let my Enemies remember Mr. *Creffwell* was now in *China*, known to me but as a Relation, whom I had ſeen only twice before; fupposed to be fixed in the *India* Trade, without the leaſt Probability of ever living with my Grandmother, at this Time upwards of fixty.

1732.

I think, the firſt Journey into *Shropſhire*, after my Sifter left us, he returned from *China*; 'tis certain, I was glad to ſee him, as a Relation,

tion, particularly so, as he was the Joy of my Grandmother, whose Happiness I wished equally with my own: With Regard to myself, he was then quite indifferent. In this second Visit his Behaviour was very particular, and his Stay, excepting a short Interval about his *India* Affairs, a Year. 'Tis true, he named not Courtship, but an Assiduity to please was so apparent, that any Girl, in my Situation, would have concluded that his Design. Whatever were my Thoughts, my Disposition was Nar. p.47. naturally reserved to all Mankind, but peculiarly so to him; as he has often, since our Marriage, told me. I saw his Attachment to me gave my Grandmother Pain, for which Reason I discouraged him. Had she been pleased, I should, for he then bore a most extraordinary good Character.

During this long Visit, I do not remember once sitting down that he did not take the next Chair; nay, he has frequently stood at the Back of mine half an Hour, or longer, till one by me has been vacant. I never went on Horseback but I met him in the Fields, or at the Door, watching my Return. My Grandmother harshly complained, that, in my Absence, they had none of her Grandson's Company. Her Disquiet was always Reason sufficient for mine, and determined me to go to *Lincoln*. However, no one was acquainted

with my Intention, yet he guess'd it ; for one Morning, walking in the Garden, he complained, that his Grandmother did not behave to me as usual ; which made him think, I wish'd myself away, and would go to my Father's. He seem'd much dissatisfied, declaring, that " If I did not stay with her, she " should see him no more." I turned the Discourse, but hop'd he would find out the Cause of her Uneasiness, and alter his Behaviour. My Regard for him was yet of such a Nature, that I could, without Reluctance, have seen his Marriage with any other Woman. I knew my Grandmother depended on a large Fortune ; but he, I guess, had told her the same he did me in the Garden : For, a few Days after that Conversation, she behaved more kind, and desired I would not think of leaving her, concluding, " *Tommy* says, If " you go, he will never come to *Sidbury* again." I staid, and Business call'd Mr. *Cresswell* to *London*. All his Visits to *Sidbury* pass'd in the same Manner ; a very particular Behaviour on his Side, Anger on my Grandmother's, and perpetual Vexation on mine ; yet Attempts in me to leave them were always prevented : She so dreaded never seeing him afterwards, that she spared no Methods to keep me with her.

In this State Things remained till the Year 1738.—But it is necessary for me to take Notice

rice of several Circumstances, because mentioned in the *Narrative*.

The Accident of the Fit ^b did not happen in the Year 1734 ; nor did I go to *London* in the Spring of 1735. I mention not this to evade the Charge, but let my Enemies observe, that, if I was guilty, and would evade it, I need only shew, that this whole Spring and Summer I was at *Sidbury*, and the preceding *Christmas*, or any Time near it, my Brother *Fred.* was not there, nor Mr. *Cresswell*, till the Beginning of *March*. Supposing this true, would any Thing more be wanting to prove his whole Account false ? But I want not to confute him by every Method, only by a true and fair Representation, giving the real, and not the possible Motives, of every Action.

A little after *Christmas*, while Prayers were ^{1735.} reading, I had this Fit, occasioned by bleeding with Leeches, in the Morning, for the Tooth-ach. They bled all Day, and the Loss of Blood so sunk my Spirits, that in the Evening I complained of an uncommon Lowness, which none regarded till they saw me fall. Mr. *Cresswell*, I believe, did take me up, for he told me the next Day of my Grandmother's Anger at his extreme Care.

^b *Narrative*, p. 1, 2, and part of 3, a little after *Christmas*, 1734, &c.

Every Thing related in the *Narrative* is most certainly false ; not that I was sensible for many Hours ; but this I know, that on coming to myself, I saw my Grandmother, Mrs. *Huggeford*, Mrs. *Scott*, Mr. *Cresswell*, and *Fred.* all in my Room : Mr. *Cresswell* not near my Bed ; nor do I suppose he ever had been ; they had been together the whole Time, as I have been informed by each of those who are now living.—We generally rode out, when the Weather permitted, chiefly on my Brother's Account, for my Fit was not followed by any Illness : He was just recovered from a violent Fever, in which Mr. *Cresswell* one Day declared him in great Danger, “ For he was delirious, “ and called him Brother.” My Grandmother, in great Fury replied, “ That was no “ Sign of his being light-headed ; if he was “ not so yet, no doubt *Fred.* knew he would “ e'er long.”

1736.

In the Spring we went to Town ; I lived with my Father in *Warwick-Court*, where Mr. *Cresswell* frequently dined, and often attended us to Plays. My Mother-in-Law, I am sure, thought he courted me ; and, in my Presence, told my Father so, who directly asked me, If it was true ? I blushed, and made no Reply. I could not answer positively. Mr. *Cresswell* had made no Declaration, and they saw his Behaviour. I owned enough, by my Silence.
My

My Father smiled, and said, “ *Betty*, don’t be
 “ confused, *Tom Cresswell* is a very sober Lad.
 “ His Fortune, at my Mother *Cresswell*’s Death,
 “ will be sufficient, and I shall be very well
 “ pleased with the Match.” At my Uncle
Moreton’s, his Behaviour was so particular, that
 my Aunt took Notice, and I believe spoke to
 him of it; but not in the Manner he describes, Nar. p. 41
 I dare say. How different is his Account from
 the Truth, even in this Trifle? He was, in-
 deed, at *New-Market*, or *Epsom* Races, but not
 at both; those finished, returned, and was not
 absent from *London* before, or after, during
 my Stay; hardly ever dined out, never supped
 but once, and, tho’ he returned not till four in
 the Morning, rose at seven to attend me to
Islington; which he constantly did, during the
 Season of drinking that Water.

In *August* * he did go with me to the Inn,
 and waited near two Hours before the Coach
 set

* *Narr.* latter Part of p. 5, and beginning of 6, from
August (the Time I went to *Lincoln*, allowed so by Mr.
Cresswell, and known by all my Friends, for I was at the
 Races, and, those ended, continued ill) till *March* I was
 not at *Sidbury*. How, then, in this Interval, could he find
 me ill there and engage me? What was the Name of the
 Physician, who despairing of my Life, assured him I should
 quickly die? Must not my whole Family, and many of my
 Acquaintance, know that I was with my Father in Town,
 that I soon followed him to *Lincoln*, and my Illness there,
 as before described?

set out. He expressed great Concern at my going, and declared again, " He would never go to *Sidbury*, till he heard of my being there." I only said, " My Grandmother does not like it, and my Father wishes me at Home, where, if Health permit me, I must stay." At parting I received a Salute, which was the only Liberty he ever attempted taking with me till many Years after ^d.

What follows, in that Page of the *Narrative*, he, since my Marriage, told me passed with another Woman, and was extreme angry at my Disbelief. His constant Attachment to me in Town, and the particular Turn of every

Mr. *Cresswell* has designedly in this, and many other Places, made wrong Dates, by relating several Facts as immediately following each other; between which, in Reality, there was an Interval of a Year or two. My Father's Accounts, and Tradesmens Bills, have assisted me greatly in these Points, without which there would have been scarcely any Possibility of Confutation.

^d *Narr.* p. 3 and 4. Our Accounts are very different; let my Enemies consider, that in these Parts Mr. *Cresswell's* Assertions are generally negative, which, through a Length of twelve Years, he might reasonably hope could not effectually be proved untrue; whereas mine are positive Assertions of several Facts, part of which passed in the Presence of my Mother-in-Law, and of the Remainder all my Uncle *Moreton's* Family, and many more People mutually acquainted with us both, were Eye-witnesses. Should I dare thus to expose myself to the Contradiction of so many different People, without an absolute Certainty of Truth? At what other publick Place was he during my Stay?—

Con-

Conversation, tho' he never directly told his Design, left no Room for Doubt; and my Grandmother's Uneasiness determined me to leave my Father's no more. But my Stay proved only six Months, of which I was not one out of my Room. *Lincoln* Air was always too sharp for me, and the Physician positively told my Father, I must go to *Shropshire*, or die. I went first to *London*, and staid a Fortnight with my Aunt. Mr. *Cresswell* had been sent for a few Days before to my Grandmother, *Feb. 1737.* who, it was thought, lay a dying. I was very *March.* weak when I came to *Sidbury*, but recovered daily, the warm Weather coming on, and that Air always agreeing with me. There I found him, not he me, as expressed in the *Narrative*, nor had I any Illness, nor was there any such Thing as "Two or three Words, on which *Narr. p.* "I instantaneously recovered." When my *5 and 6.* Grandmother got well, he returned to *London*.

In the Autumn I went to my Father at *Bath*, and thence with him in the Spring to *London.* 1738.

Here I again saw Mr. *Cresswell*; his Behaviour was as usual, nor had he an Opportunity of shewing his surly Brutishness to me. *Nar. p. 6.*

My Father's Stay in Town was not a Fortnight, and mine but three Days longer, waiting the Stage, to return to my Grandmother, who then lived at *Bridgnorth*. All the Stuff relating to my giving up any Promise, desiring

to talk with him alone, &c. is false, there being, at that Time, no Promise or Engagement between us. In Point of Judgment, and Integrity, I thought him the first Man in the World, but I loved him not, nor yet was he disagreeable to me. In the Summer we returned to *Sidbury*, where he immediately came, having heard of Mr. *Lee's* Courtship. I well

Nar. p. 7. remember Mrs. *Woolley's* Joke, and as well Mr. *Cresswell's* Melancholy on the Occasion. What he said to my Grandmother, I know not; but, the Evening after this, He asked if Mr. *Lee* courted me? I said, "My Grandmother had
 " been applied to by ———, and I believed
 " he did."—"Do you like him, Cousin?"—"No."—"I am very glad of that; for, if
 " you had married him, I would never have
 " forgiven it, or seen you more."—"Why
 " so? He is a very great Match."—"That
 " is true, but I hoped I was not disagreeable
 " to you, and you might very well know, by
 " my whole Behaviour, that I never thought
 " of any other for a Wife. It was only Circumstances, and my Grandmother's Dislike,
 " that prevented my engaging you; which
 " now, I hope, you will permit me to do:
 " But we must be very secret as long as she
 " lives, or till her Consent can be gained. I
 " am endeavouring to get the *Pinkney* Estate
 " out of Sir *Abr. Elton's* Hands, and will, if
 I " possible,

“ possible, agree with my Father for my Grand-
 “ mother’s Jointure, at her Death, lest he
 “ should then fall the Timber, which, I am
 “ sure, he would do for the Value of Six-
 “ Pence.”—I promised to refuse Mr. *Lee*, and
 assign for my Reason, a Disinclination to Ma-
 trimony. There was no Opportunity of mak-
 ing this Refusal : My Behaviour, indeed, was
 very reserved on his next Visit, and that of the
 Family absolutely rude. The Expressions Mr.
Cresswell charges to me, and much worse, were ^{N. p. 7, 8.}
 continually used by them. Mr. *Lee*, and his
 Sister, spent several Days at *Sidbury* ; we, in
 Return, only one Night at *Coton*. Several of
 the Miss *Lees* were there ; I saw no Particularity
 from Mr. *Cresswell* to any of them. That
 would indeed have been surprising, as he had
 just then engaged me. He was out with the
 Hounds, but Mr. *Lee* not. We were much
 pressed to stay longer, nor did he go alone ;
 mine, and the Servant’s Horse being ready,
 we all set out together.

We visited Mrs. *Lee* and her Daughters at
Bridgnorth frequently ; but there never was any
 Appointment with Mr. *Lee* : His Addresses to ^{Nar. p. 9.}
 me were entirely ended. Let my Enemies de-
 termine, from Mr. *Cresswell*’s own Account,
 whether he prevented my listning to Mr. *Lee* or
 not. I was so far from desiring an immediate
 Marriage, that I would even now fain have left ^{Nar. p. 10.}

Sidbury, and risked my Health at *Lincoln*, during my Grandmother's Life, or till she consented. Mr. *Cresswell* absolutely refused. He went to *London* in the Winter; the Visits between him and Mr. *Lee* continued till they were broke by the former, who never went to *Coton* after Mr. *Lee* was at *Sidbury* with Mr. *B—y*: They staid one Night, and intended staying longer, but that my Grandmother almost directly bid them go; the Reason she gave was very trifling, "because her Provision was gone." She then thought proper to stop any direct Proposal, by telling Mr. *Lee*, "Nobody must think of her Grand-daughter, without a large Allowance for Pin-money." Her Discourse, tho' very unreasonable, pleased me greatly: I flattered myself that her Refusal was owing to the Regard she ever professed for her Grandson's Happiness; and that her Consent to our Marriage would not, in Time, be difficult to gain. Mr. *Cresswell* then thought so too, and expressed the highest Satisfaction at the Probability there was of her Approbation; yet would not permit me to tell her our Engagement.

1739,

In the Spring, Lord *Delo—n* died at *Bath*, and my Sister desired I would meet her in Town: I went, and, excepting the first Night at my Aunt *Moreton*'s, was with her the whole Time, five or six Weeks. Mr. *Cresswell* visited us frequently,

frequently, nor was his Behaviour at all altered. One Day, when we were alone, he began abruptly to complain of his Circumstances,—“ That he was greatly dissatisfied,—that he “ loved me to Distraction ; but was so poor, “ that our Marriage would be the utter Ruin “ of us both, and, therefore, wished me to “ release him.”—So sudden a Declaration shock’d me, for he was not now indifferent as he had been ; however, I made no Complaints, but, as readily as my Confusion would permit, released him. I went with my Sister to *Lincoln*, where we staid but six Weeks. She desired to pay my Grandmother a Visit. I made no Scruple of going with her, for Mr. *Cresswell* was then in Town. Before our Return he came down. He again took all Occasions of expressing his Regard for my unfortunate Self, assuring me he could love no other ; that he had attempted courting a Lady of Fortune, but, while I was in Being, it was impossible for him to marry any other Woman. He begg’d me to esteem myself engaged, as before ; for we should do very well, if his Father could be prevailed on to part with his Grandmother’s Jointure, and that he believed would be effected. He saw I designed for *Lincoln*, and seemed very uneasy. I really was not inclined to stay, tho’ our Engagement was renewed ; but my Grandmother pressed me very strongly, saying,

Miss Cumby. See post, p. 131.

saying, “ My Sister could not want me at
 “ *Lincoln*, and she could not, now she was so
 “ old, live without me ;” so I did not go*. I
 was very dull when my Sister left us, and could
 not forget the Conversation in Town. From
 this Time his Behaviour was extremely tender.—He went to *London* to settle with Sir
Abr—m E—n; which done, he returned, and
 prevailed on my Grandmother to live with him
 at *Pinkney*. He was greatly overjoy’d at this
 Success, saying, “ By the Help of her Income
 “ to keep his House, he should soon be in a
 “ very good Way : That his Rents would go
 “ in Repairs and Improvements at first, but in
 “ a little Time he should save Money.”

1740.

Soon after we were fixed at *Pinkney*, I found
 my Grandmother strongly press’d him to marry
 a Woman with Money ;—not any one in parti-

* All Notes with this Mark † are by my Brother *Scrope*
 answered in a Letter to Mr. *Lee*, who desired his Reply to
 every Part wherein he is immediately appealed to.

Narr. p. 10. I do not remember that Sister *Delorain*
 asked her to go to *Lincoln* to stay, because it would have
 been improper to leave my Grandmother alone; and the
 Night Mr. *Cresswell* fixes this, that same Night it was de-
 termined that I should go with my Sister *Delorain* to *Lin-*
coln, which I accordingly did in the Chariot; nor do I
 remember, or believe, that my Grandmother was at that
 Time against her Continuance in *Shropshire*; for, as I was
 in the House, that could not happen without my Know-
 ledge.

cular,

cular, but to look out for somebody. Far from doing this, he was more publick in his Attachment to me. This was very disagreeable to her, and truly made my Life extremely unhappy. I insisted, that he would permit me to live with my Father; he did not readily comply: However, on my farther Uneasiness, and strict Promise to keep my Engagement, he consented. The Time for the Journey was fixed, when, to my unspeakable Grief, I had the melancholy News of my Father's Death. This was the greatest Affliction I had then ever ^{1741.} known, and, indeed, the Cause of all my future Misery, by preventing my intended Journey.—I was almost inconsolable.

During the first Winter, at *Pinkney*, my Health was tolerably good. After my Father's Death, in the low-spirited Way I was, we frequently aired in the Chariot. One Day, the Coachman being out, Mr. *Cresswell* drove. At our Return he helped me to my Chamber; for I had for some Time been too feeble ^{Nar.p.11.} to walk alone. Coming in, a Servant told us, Company was in the Parlour. My Grandmother, as well as he, saw me to my Room ^f.

^f *Narr. p. 11.* On my Return from *London*, after our Marriage, he gave me this same Account of another Lady, about whom I was then extremely uneasy,—“That on a Visit to her Uncle, sitting together in the Parlour, &c.” the Aunt coming in, interrupted them.

She

She staid, and he went directly down. I was then in so weak a Condition, that my Life was thought in Danger.

He might, for ought I know, make his Cousin *Carter* a Visit at that Time, and return on a *Sunday*. I remember his staying from Nar.p.12. Church one Afternoon, when Ill-health kept me at Home. His Books of Accompts were before him. When my Grandmother went to Church I went up Stairs, and did not come down till I heard the Chariot. He complained of my Unkindness in leaving him alone; "I thought you was busy:"—"That was only while Granny staid; and, as we have so few Opportunities of talking, you should not have left me."—She came in, and put an End to our Conversation.

Albion Nar.p.12. The Summer my Uncle *M—n* spent at *Pinkney* was a very troublesome one to me, Mr. *Cresswell* having insisted upon almost a rude Behaviour from me to him. I now know he was afraid my Uncle, by Conversation, should discover our Engagement, and, consequently, disappoint the, no doubt, concerted Scheme of his designed Villany. His Reasons, for so shy a Behaviour, were of such a Nature, that no virtuous Woman would have slighted. Being asked to go to *Cirencester* with him, I absolutely refused, till Mr. *Cresswell* removed my Objection,

Objection, by offering to go with us ⁵. Returning, our Conversation was very different ^{Nar. p. 13.} from what he relates. He talked a great deal, and very strongly, to me of his prudent Fit (as he called it) of marrying a Woman with Money, at the Time he desired me to give up my Engagement, which, he hoped, I had forgiven, as he really never could love any other Woman.

My Grandmother frequently walked with ^{Nar. p. 14.} me under the Piazza ; and, with Mr. *Cresswell*, I have often walked alone : It is as publick as any Walk in the Country can be, in Sight of all coming to the House.

The Account, from the 11th to the 22d, as well as the 75th and 76th Pages of the *Narrative*, and, indeed, some other Parts, are of so infamous a Nature, and so extremely indecent, that by my Sex I am denied the Privilege of expatiating upon them : I can only most sacredly declare, they are absolutely false.

I had, ever since my Father's Death, been in a very dejected State ; but, for the last six Weeks, was confined to my Room, most fre-

⁵ Mr. *Cresswell*, when first he told my Brother *Fred.* of our Marriage, then fixed this Time for the infamous Familiarity he pretends before our Marriage. I suppose he had not then settled the Story he was to make in his own Justification.

quently to my Bed. A Letter came from L—d D—e to propose a Match, tho' I knew not immediately the Purport of it. He did go to *Sidbury*, expressing to me the tenderest Concern, that he must leave me so ill, and promising his Stay should be very short. He returned in a Week, and shewed me the Letter, which he concealed, till now, lest it should give me Pain, as he had not Time to convince me, that it should come to nothing: Nor had he spoke of it to my Grandmother, lest she should, by talking, make me uneasy. Now I was satisfied he must acquaint her, and go to L—d D—e as listening to the Proposal, or they would suspect some other Engagement. "That with you, continued he, she has long feared, and, should she be certain it was so, our Ruin must ensue, for she will leave *Pinkney* directly." On his Return from L—d D—e he told me, with a very chearful Face, it was at an End. He excepted to the Fortune, and had done with that troublesome Affair, without the Pain of seeing the Lady.

Nar. p. 15. My first Room, at *Pinkney*, was a very bad one, exceeding small, no Closet, and a terrible smoaking Chimney. He made many Excuses for putting me in it; but said, it was only till the House was fitted up. Indeed, the Room could only be designed for a Servant to be near that my Grandmother lay in.

I lay one Winter in it, tho' very inconvenient, and, had my Health continued, should not have complained. At the Beginning of the following Winter, when extreme Illness had for Weeks confined me to this one disagreeable Spot; and even my Illness was increased by being frequently obliged to sit without a Fire, on Account of the Smoak; I complained to my Grandmother, and desired another Room. Her Maid spoke to Mrs. *H—d*, who, they thought might do better at this Time, than I could, in a small one, and that without any Direction of mine was ordered for me. Returning from Airing one Day, I there found all my Things. My Illness increased, and for sixteen Weeks I was not out of this Chamber, not even airing. The whole Family always breakfasted, and, Meals excepted, sat the rest of the Day with me. About two Months after my Confinement, Mr. *Cresswell* complained he had no Opportunity of talking with me, as they were so constantly in the Room, and begg'd I would give him Leave to come Nar. p 16. for an Hour after they were gone, (which usually happened about Eleven) that he might consult with me about fixing a Time for our Marriage, which would entirely prevent my Uneasiness at any other Proposals. I agreed, and about twelve o'Clock he came. If, as he describes, I should have been greatly surpris'd,

and, weak as I was, have feared his bad Design, tho' really, whoever had seen me then, would have thought me safe from any Attempt, being just worn out with Illness. However, that did not preserve me, for instead of talking, he suddenly threw himself on the Bed.— I was so frightened, I almost lost the little Strength and Spirits my Sickness had left. I had just sufficient, in struggling, to disengage myself from him, tho' upon endeavouring to get out of Bed, I found myself not able to stand. He fell on his Knees by my Bed-side, I adjured him to leave me, and never think of seeing, or speaking to me more: He entreated, for God's Sake, that I would hear him. In that Posture he continued, assuring me he had not been himself since my Fright; begged me to forgive him, and, if possible, think no more of this Attempt—that he thought me, before God, his Wife, or he would not have acted so. I did not recover enough to talk, only said, Leave me. He went;—I did not close my Eyes, but spent the Night in Tears, more wretched than can be described. I thought myself utterly ruined and loaded with Guilt, from being only exposed to the Attempt, which, in my Despair, I attributed wholly to my Consent to his Coming. The next Morning he came before any of the Family; I would not speak to him; he talked a great deal till they

they came, urging, that I had no Reason to be angry at any Thing, but the Fright he had put me in, which he was most sincerely sorry for; desired I would read over the Marriage-Ceremony with him the first Opportunity, that, surely, would convince me, that he thought of me but as his Wife, and that he would marry me more publickly when I was able to take a Journey to *London*. My Resentment was not abated, nor could I get the better of myself, so far as to speak to him. His Attempt had so affected me, that, with the former Illness, I really dreaded the Loss of my Senses. I cried incessantly; and notwithstanding the Presence of the Family, gave way to immoderate Grief: I really, for a Time, was mad; for, tho' I had not the least Consciousness of actual Guilt, yet my Consent to his Coming was perpetually in my Thoughts, to which I imputed his Behaviour. I beat myself,—I wrung my Hands,—tore my Hair,—and that without any Regard to whoever was present^h. I wanted to tell my Grandmother, but was afraid, and ashamed

^h All who, at this Time, lived at *Pinkney*, and many in the Neighbourhood, must know, in general, whether I here speak Truth. Let Strangers compare our Accounts, and thence form their Opinions. My Enemies cannot but allow, that even Mr. *Cresswell*, directly contrary to his Interest and favourite Scheme, describes a very uncommon Distress. *Narr.* p. 15. An Absence of Sleep, for sixteen Days

ashamed to begin ; she, by her Behaviour, I now think, was as unwilling to hear ; dreading to know an Engagement, which she was determined, by any Method, to end. In the Afternoon, sitting on the Side of my Bed, she began : “ For God’s Sake, Miss, what can “ you mean by this mad Behaviour ? Your “ Fortune is very sufficient, and few young “ People are so happy in the Opinion of the “ World.” I eagerly caught the Opportunity, and resolved to utter all my Complaints ; catching fast hold of her Hand, I cried, “ Oh “ God ! my dear Grandmother, I have greater “ Afflictions than ever Woman laboured under ; pray hear me patiently, and then give “ me your Advice and Help——Mr. *Cresswell*—” The Moment his Name was mentioned, she grew red with Anger, and snatching her Hand from me, hastily left the Room.

Days and Nights, perpetual, and eternal Convulsions, making unnatural Noises, &c. Is such Misery occasioned by trifling Causes ? Would a Woman, so fondly beginning, as in p. 2 and 3 of the *Narrative* ; wantonly proceeding, as in p. 4 ; vitiously consenting, in p. 11 and 12 ; making an infamous Proposal, in p. 13 ; even petitioning, in p. 14 ; and in p. 15 and 16 confirming, in the most deliberate and abandoned Manner, all her former Steps, by directly, and, in the most indecent Manner, asking her Lover, be affected with Scruples of Conscience ? Is his own Account of my Behaviour and Distress in the least Degree probable ? If I consented, why was I uneasy ? Why did he marry me ? And, why did he put off the other Match ?

In

In five Minutes he came, acquainted with all that had passed, for he expostulated vehemently with me on my Design of telling. He then spoke very submissively, begging me not to expose him, since he waited only my Recovery for our publick Marriage, till which Time, if I would read the Ceremony privately, he would not once mention my receiving him as a Husband. I made no Reply. His continued Repentance, his present Offer, and my Grandmother's Deafness to my Complaints, made me consent, the *Sunday* following, in the Afternoon, to the private Marriage. There was not a Tittle about placing *Jenny* in the Closet. Far was I then from suspecting him of denying the Marriage. I grew calmer, till about a Week afterwards, in Confidence of this Half-Marriage, he strongly urged my Compliance as a Wife. This chagrined me greatly ; I resolutely refused : At first he was very angry, but at last seemed satisfied.

I broke out no more into those immoderate Fits of Distraction ; yet was my Mind so excessively disturbed, that for sixteen Days and Nights I never once slept, and was, during that Time, in almost uninterrupted Convulsions. It is very true, that in the short Intervals the Fits allowed, I always found myself alone with him ; or, if any happened to be present, they immediately quitted the Room.

Nar. p.
16, 17.

This concerted Behaviour, in the Family, sometimes made me less unhappy at the Thoughts that my Grandmother would consent to our Marriage. But my easy Moments were ever very short. Mr. *Cresswell* seemed dissatisfied at being so often alone with me. His Coolness was plain, tho' he endeavoured to hide it. I complained to him of my Want of Sleep: He advised me to take some Laudanum, which had been prescribed to me before; but not in the Quantity he proposed. He cautioned me, in a very odd Manner, against taking it frequently, and in small Quantities, a Method, he said, used by those who intended to destroy themselves. After the ninth, or tenth Night, he ordered it me daily in immoderate Doses. It had no Effect: I grew weaker, and really thought myself at the Point of Death. I told him so, and desired he would give me a short Copy of a Will, wherein I would express my private Marriage, and leave my Fortune to him—He did so; and I signed it. After this he was hardly ever with me, and, when forced to be in my Chamber, appeared very cool and dissatisfied. I could not help complaining. He answered, very furlily, "That he believed I made myself worse, that my Grandmother might find out the Cause." I made no Reply, being too deeply concerned

at

at his Cruelty. Four Days passed, he still the same. A Bottle of Laudanum, Wine, and a Glass, were left at my Bed-side every Night. I am ashamed to repeat what follows, but my Repentance has been very sincere, and I hope sufficient. My Body and Mind, wearied out with Illness, and unable to bear so many different Shocks; my Grandmother's Unkindness, and Mr. *Cresswell's* Cruelty, made me disgusted with a Life, burthensome to myself and those about me, I once thought my Friends. To put an End to it, I took, on the sixteenth Day, at different Times, two Hundred Drops, after Mr. *Cresswell's* Method; sometimes in Wine and Water, sometimes on Lumps of Sugar; for, as he said, the Stomach, if it was taken all the same Way, would throw it off. This did not answer. After I was in Bed, and the Family gone, I drank a great deal plain, out of the Bottle. Within a Quarter of an Hour I was overcome with Sleep; but was afraid to indulge it. I knew my Design, and dreaded the Thought of waking no more. "Indeed, Nar. p. 17.
 " this poor Creature was now wonderfully and
 " dreadfully afraid of Death, not thinking,
 " but knowing herself at that Instant a Sinner,
 " who, a few Days before, would have been
 " glad to die." I was not able to rise, so
 F knock'd

knock'd with my Shoe for a Servant¹, who sat up in a Room under mine; I bid her tell Mr. *Cresswell* I wanted to speak with him immediately. He came; and she, by my Orders, left the Room. I told him what I had taken, and begged something might be given to save me. He coolly asked, "Can you sleep?" I said, "Yes. Nothing, but the Guilt of what I have done prevents me, for I shall never wake again." He replied, "Sleep, it will do you no Harm;" and without farther Enquiry left me.—His Unconcern checked my Desire of Relief: It was in his Power to save my Life, and I thought myself freed from the Crime of Self-murder, by this Application; so directly went to Sleep. I waked not till late the next Day, eagerly called for something to eat, and instantly slept again. This continued three Days and Nights, and excessively frightened my Grandmother, and all the Family. None knew the Cause but he, who never discovered it. Her Maid, I believe, suspected his Design; for ever after, she re-

¹ It was the Dairy-Maid; her Name was *Rachel Chaple*, her Friends live at *Deadmartin*, two Miles from *Pinkney*. If he was not faulty in this Story, why does he endeavour to make it trifling, by saying, *Narr.* p. 17. "She — got out of Bed and came to me:" When it must be known, I was not able to get up?

refused giving me any; and at last told him, before me, "I do believe you will never be easy till you have laudanum'd her into her Grave." He affected great Concern at this Speech, and immediately flung all the Laudanum away. I never sent for him but on that Occasion.

One Night after, my Grandmother, Mrs. H—d, and all thought I must immediately die. Whether they told him, I know not; but, an Apothecary from *Malmſbury* was directly sent for, who ordered me something, that, they all said, saved my Life; and my Grandmother ever after declared, for Mr. *Dolby's* Credit, that the ablest Physician in the World could not have performed a more surprizing Cure. I would not take from Mr. *Cresswell* one good Quality, it would be cruel to rob a Man so very poor; but, truly, I think, he had long before this broke through the Custom of reading Prayers.

Hufferford

Nar. p. 17.

After the Laudanum had taken this Turn, which, however light he makes of it, all my Physicians since agree, that only could have saved my Life; whether to this I owed my Calmness, or Time made my Misfortunes less grievous, I recovered very fast. Mr. *Cresswell* (I suppose to make Amends for his former Behaviour, or, perhaps, on my Recovery, fearing

ing an Application to my other Friends) entirely altered, expressing vast Joy, and affecting the utmost Impatience, till his Happiness could be compleated by a publick Marriage. This Change, I own, had a much greater Effect on me than any Medicine. Within a few Weeks I quitted my Chamber, after an almost constant Confinement, from *October* to *February*.

But more Trials were preparing for me. Mr. G—^e sent from *London* a Proposal of a very advantageous Match. Mr. *Cresswell* read it to me, and was even inhumane enough to shew an Inclination to consent. I made no Complaint; but burst into Tears, and immediately left him. This Trial revived all my former Misery. I again thought Death preferable to such a Life. In pursuit of it, I went to a little River in the Park, with an Intention to drown myself. I sate down at the Root of a Tree, ruminating on my Afflictions: Here, I thank God, the Fear of Death, and Horror of Self-murder prevented me. I had been about three Hours from the House, when he

* *Nar.* p. 18. Why was I uneasy at this Proposal, if I had before consented to a second Marriage? And what Reason had I to doubt his Sincerity? Why did Mr. G—^e, in the next Page, ask Mr. *Cresswell*, so seriously, If that (the Fortune) was his only Objection?

came to me, holding a large open Knife in his Hand, with which his Design (as he said) was to have killed himself, if, according to his Expectation, I had been dead; for he feared his last Trial had turned my Head. I said, " Indeed it had; and, if he was so wavering, desired, tho' the Ceremony was read between us, that we might yet part, for I could no longer bear such heavy Afflictions." He swore this should be the last; and entreated me to go directly to *London*, where he would follow in a Fortnight, put off the Match¹ his Friend had proposed, and marry me; but desired, my Journey might be under Pretence of seeing my Brother, and he would tell my Grandmother he was to court a Lady with 10,000 *l.* but not till after I was set out, lest, thro' Jealousy, she should stop me. I went to Town, where he came directly to me; and, I believe, the next Day to Mr. G—e, for very soon he assured me the Proposals were rejected.

¹ The Reason he gave me for listening to this Proposal was, that a very considerable Creditor (Sir A—m E—n) had applied for his Money, which he could not conveniently get immediately, and therefore thought it most advisable, to gain Time, by pretending to listen to this Proposal; during which, he might, probably, thro' some Friend, be supplied; and his Creditor, thinking it likely, that he might, from a Wife's Fortune, quickly receive his Money, would, at least, for a short Time, rest satisfied.

He

1742.

He brought me a Wedding-Ring, and promised to go the next Morning to *Dottors Commons* for a Licence. The following Day I saw him not till Noon, when he appeared excessively chagrined at having met an old School-fellow employed in that Court, whence, should he take out a Licence, we might as secretly have been married at *Sherston Church* ; for it would be known to all the World ; therefore desired I would be married in the *Fleet*. At first I objected ; but, on his naming many People that I knew were married there, and assuring me they were all Clergymen who officiated, and had Chapels on Purpose, where all was very sacred and solemn, I consented ; and, on the twenty-third of April, was married to my sure most bitter Enemy.

This unfortunate Day was a *Friday*. We went to visit the Widow of Capt. H—y in the *Tower*. Dr. H—y's first Lady was there on a Visit at the same Time. We staid Tea, left them about Seven, and walked on the Hill till it was dark. Thence a little farther Mr. *Cresswell* called a Coach ; what Directions he gave to the Man, I know not. We were set down short of the *Fleet*, and walked thither. I had no Time for Observation, he terrified me so by his surly Behaviour ; which, at that Time, I attributed to his Fear of being seen by some

The Parish Church used by the People of *Pinkney*.

of

of his Acquaintance. But I am now convinced, he acted thus to confound and perplex me, lest I should again find the Place we were going to. I was too much confused to make this Remark then : He took me up Stairs, where were a Clergyman, and a Woman, who officiated as Clerk. These, I found, had been appointed several Days before. When the Ceremony was over, Mr. *Cresswell* paid them. The Clergyman took a Book into his Hand, and demanded the Fee for Registering the Marriage; he refused giving so much, and offered a smaller Price. This was not accepted, and Mr. *Cresswell* said, " Then it shall not be registered at all." The Clergyman then applied to me, and I, not knowing the Consequence, readily declared my Indifference. We left the House, and, walking about an hundred Yards, took Coach, and went to our Lodgings.

My Brother *Scrope* coming to Town, lodged in the same House with me, so did Mr. *Cresswell*; not that we lived together as Man and Wife. As our Marriage was to remain secret, I would not, but by Compulsion, have ever lived in the same Place with him, till his Circumstances would publickly allow it. My Fortune paid me one Hundred Pounds yearly. I offered to live on Forty where ever he thought proper, and give him the remaining Sixty. This he refused, saying, " He must see me
" con-

“ constantly, tho’ not allowed the Liberty of
 “ an Husband.” For more than a Month after, I lived as Miss *Scrope* : Then he, for the first Time, commanded my Obedience, faithfully promising, that if it was necessary, our Marriage should be immediately owned. We set out for *Pinkney*, and, during the Journey, behaved to each other as Relations only. At Home he insisted on coming to me once a Week, after the Family was in Bed. The Carter lay over my Room, who was a married Man, and went home every *Saturday*, or *Sunday*, to his Family. This Night Mr. *Cresswell* chose, thinking it safer than when he lay in the Room above, nor did he ever come at any other Time. Soon after, he strongly pressed my coming to him, giving a foolish Reason, that his Room was farther off the Servants. I urged, that of the Maids being near, desiring we might not meet at all, till our Meeting could be publick. He reprov’d me very severely, saying, “ ’Twas unreasonable to expect he should undergo all the Hardship of
 “ lying so long awake, and then coming in
 “ the Cold ; that ’twas my Duty to come to
 “ him, and he commanded me so to do.” There was a Frown upon his Face, which always prevented my expostulating. I only said,
 “ Mr. *Cresswell*, I will come, and will take
 “ Care to keep my coming private ; but if,

“ not-

“ notwithstanding this Care, I am at any Time
 “ discovered, I will certainly declare my Mar-
 “ riage.” He replied, “ Very well, do so.”
 After this, once a Week, as he ordered, I
 went ; but my Fears would never let me ven-
 ture till Two in the Morning, nor even then,
 without listening at my Door till I was almost
 starved. This continued but few Weeks ; my
 Brother came down and took us with him to
Cheltenham, where he and I staid six Weeks ;
 Mr. *Cresswell* was sometimes with us, and some-
 times at *Pinkney* ; seldom present, or absent,
 three Days at a Time. I think about the Be-
 ginning of *September*, we returned to *Pinkney*,
 staid about two Months, and then my Brother
 and I went to *Bath*. Before this Journey, be-
 lieving myself with Child, I told it Mr. *Cresswell* Nar. p. 19.
well, as we were walking in the Garden, the
 first Opportunity I had. He seemed uncon-
 cerned, and, going a little Way off, brought a
 Bit of a Shrub, which he bid me taste : I was
 vexed at his trifling, as I fancied, with Intent
 to turn the Discourse : I repeated my Fears,
 and begged him to let me tell my Grandmo-
 ther. He talked a great deal of the Inconve-
 niences attending a Discovery, with great Con-
 cern that my Condition made it necessary,
 concluding, “ If you will take some of that
 “ *Savin* boiled in Milk, which I will prepare
 “ for you, it will prevent our Ruin.”

Good God ! how his Proposal astonished me ! I called him Villain, declaring most vehemently against his infamous Barbarity. I urged the just Reason there was for my Reproaches, having all along feared what I now believed : For had he consulted my Ease and Happiness, and not altogether his own present Gratification, it had not happened, being always pressed by me to live apart till he could own me his Wife ; but, since he had not complied, he must now suffer the Misfortunes attending the Publication of our Marriage ; for I would directly acquaint my Grandmother with it. Turning to me, with a Smile, but mildly reproving me for so ready a Belief, he protested, that this, and all his former Behaviour, were only Trials of my Virtue, which he had ever, with the greatest Joy, found immoveable. He desired me not directly to tell my Grandmother, but wait till there was an absolute Necessity, when he would speak himself, lest her Anger should do me Harm. A little more passed, which I cannot relate, but our Conversation ended as above, my Brother coming to us. What Mr.

Nar. p. *Cresswell* relates in his *Narrative* about this, is
 18, 19, 20. entirely without Foundation ; all he said, on this Subject, passed in the Garden, and my Account is strictly true. I went with my Brother to *Bath*, where he came in a few Weeks. My Fears were groundless. He never was in
 my

my Chamber here, but one Day about a Quarter of an Hour, while I was dressing my Head; Nar.p.21. my Maid too was present. I was ill all this Season. He came over twice; and, the Waters not agreeing with me, persuaded my Return. I excused it, because my Brother expected my Stay, and would return with me. He swore that should be prevented, for it debarred us being alone, and his Man, keeping the Servants up late, would prevent our meeting on the *Sunday*. This, added he, I cannot bear; but I have a Scheme in my Head, that shall send him to *London*. He talked to my Brother, who hurried me directly from *Bath* to *Pinkney*, staid but a Week, and went to Town on the Errand Mr. *Cresswell* ⁿ had contrived for him.

To what was the Answer, “ I should be Nar.p.22. “ very happy with 5000 *l. &c.*”——Not one Tittle of such Conversation ever passed, nor did I, once in my Life, wish an Addition to my Fortune, but on his Account. With a little less Avarice he might now have been, what he is not, or ever will be, a happy, and an honest Man. I never engaged to keep my Brother’s House °, because Mr. *Cresswell* would not suffer Nar.p.22. me

ⁿ † Narr. p. 22. l. 8. I asked Mr. *Cresswell*’s Advice in the Affair, and he, as a Friend and Relation, recommended this *London* Journey to me.

° † Narr. p. 22. My Sister, when ever I mentioned her living with me, was always against deserting my Grandmother

me to be from him, or I should gladly have done it.

Some Time after my Brother was gone, he told me L—d D—e had proposed Miss *Warnford*, whom he had thought it prudent to see, at *Bybury* Church; because, a declared Dislike of her Person, would account for his Refusal.

Sackville “ We owe, said he, a Visit to Mrs. S—e, “ and will go To-morrow : Our Discourse “ shall turn upon Miss *Warnford*, she is her “ Relation, and I will say so much against her “ Person, that when the Proposal is made, “ the Mother shall refuse it, concluding me “ desirous of the Fortune only, and L—d “ D—e, or my Grandmother, can no Way

Sackville Nar. p. 24. “ blame, or suspect me.” We went: And up Stairs Mrs. S—e told me, she heard Mr. *Cresswell* would be her Relation, by marrying her Cousin *Warnford*, which, “ She thought “ would do very well.” What passed, on my Side, I have really forgot; it could not be much, for we were not absent above five Minutes. Certain, that the Proposal must come to nothing, I was indifferent. To give him an Opportunity of talking, as he had promised; I said, “ Mrs. S—e has heard you

Sackville ther in her old Age, and always apprehensive *Lincoln* would not agree with her, knowing, by Experience, it never did; therefore this is false, she did not engage to keep my House.

“ will

“ will be her Relation.” — She answered,
 “ Miss *Warnford* is an agreeable young Lady,
 “ indeed ; Mr. *Cresswell*, it will do very well.”
 “ I am not at all enamoured with her Person,
 “ replied he, she is very much marked with
 “ the Small-Pox, has red Hair, and is so low,
 “ she will almost come under the Title of a
 “ Dwarf.” I said, laughing, “ Really you
 “ give a very odd Description of the Lady
 “ you are going to court.” Mrs. S——e
 praised her much, her Temper, the Goodness
 of her Features, her just Proportion, and would
 by no Means allow her of the Dwarf-kind, he
 sneering all the Time. She ended every Com-
 mendation with, “ Indeed, Mr. *Cresswell*, I
 “ think it will do very well.” We went
 home that Night, and extremely merry he was
 at Mrs. S——e’s Earnestness (notwithstanding
 his pretty Description) “ Indeed, Mr. *Cress-*
 “ *well*, I think it will do very well :” What
 she did is a Secret to me ; but in a very little
 Time he told me, our Conversation had suc-
 ceeded, Mrs. *Warnford* having refused him,
 and, “ Thank God, it was over without his
 “ being obliged to act the Farce any longer.”
 I never ^p listened to any one Proposal of Mar-

Lackwill

Lackwill

^p *Narr.* beginning of p. 23. How does this Account
 agree, with another of Mr. *Cresswell*’s, in his Letter of this
 Book ? “ That *Lee* is the only Man, besides myself, that
 “ ever in earnest addressed you.”

riage.

riage. My Brother often pressed me ; but my constant Answer was, I shall not change my Condition. Since my Marriage, I avoided the Expression of designing to live single. I never once, in my Life, absolutely denied my Engagement, or Marriage, but rather confirmed the Suspicion. Once particularly, dining at *Malmsbury* with a Sister of Mr. G——e's, he in Company, they all (he excepted) wished me Joy ; I blushed extremely, and greatly confused, asked him, if he sent for Mr. *Cresswell* to Town to marry me ? Telling Mr. *Cresswell* what had passed, he replied, very furlily, “ Why had not you told all ? This will come “ to my Grandmother's Ears, and she will “ stay no longer at *Pinkney* : What will be “ come of us ? ” I was extremely frightened, and ever after, on the same Occasion, turned the Discourse, or was silent.

Lackwiller

1743.

From the Time of Mrs. S——e's Application we lived quiet and free from any Proposals, till *Lea*, of *Sherston*, about a Year after, renewed it. Mr. *Cresswell* seemed greatly perplexed, that this troublesome Affair was revived. He said, “ Having never applied “ since their first Refusal, he hoped to have “ heard no more of Miss *Warnford*, for it “ tormented him much, as well as me : That “ as *Lea* would certainly tell my Grandmother, “ he must meet *Ready* at *Sherston*, but would “ put

“ put it off as soon as possible.” For this Purpose he went to *Sherston*, and returning, told me, “ *Ready* was a very impertinent Fellow, with an high Opinion of his own Excellencies, and had desired to write Copies^a of Letters to the Mother and Daughter.” You may conclude, continues he, “ That the Answer will be the same, as on the first Application ; if not, it soon shall. Perhaps, having heard of my Father’s Death, they think my Fortune enlarged ; but finding it otherwise, will refuse, as before, else they are in a great Hurry to marry the Daughter, and shall soon know it cannot be to me.” I expressed great Uneasiness that (when our Marriage was revealed) these Treaties must be condemned, and justly merit the Abhorrence of any Family, thus affronted and deceived. He said “ No ? All the World would see, that Circumstances obliged him to keep his Marriage secret, and therefore, to seem to listen to any Match proposed with Money : That no particular Family should ever have Cause to blame him ; for on that Occasion, his

^a Would a Man, capable of writing a Letter, have permitted an Attorney to write for him on such an Occasion, supposing he had been in Earnest ? I really think not ; and so I thought then ; and that Mr. *Cresswell* (as he told me) left it to *Ready*, not chusing to write himself about an Affair that must come to nothing.——

“ Behaviour should plainly declare, he only
 “ waited a decent Opportunity to take his
 “ Leave.” In a Day or two the Answer
 came, appointing him to meet Mr. S——e.

Nar. p. 26. He went, and returning, said, “ He hoped all

Sackville?

“ was over.” He had told Mr. S——e, that
 the Person of the Lady was displeasing. “ In-
 “ deed, *Betty* (continues he) were I not mar-
 “ ried to you, and quite free from Engage-
 “ ments to any one of your Sex, I could not
 “ marry her; there never was a Creature so
 “ immensely ugly.” This put me into pretty
 good Spirits, concluding, we should have no
 more Trouble. But, to my very great Sur-
 prize, in a few Days Mr. *Ready*, *Lea* and an-

Nar. p.
 27, 28.

other Man came to *Pinkney*. I soon found their
 Business was to view the Estate; Mr. *Cresswell*
 had privately given in Particulars, which a-
 larmed me: I went directly to my Room, and
 cried most violently. My Grandmother came,
 and seemed amazed at finding me in Tears:
 She said, “ There was Company below,” and
 desired me to come down: I absolutely refused,
 saying, “ I was in too great Affliction for Com-
 “ pany.” She would hear no more, but left the
 Room, and, as usual, sent her Grandson. He
 severely condemned my Behaviour, protesting,
 “ That this very Journey of *Ready*’s was to
 “ end the Proposal.” This was not satisfac-
 “ tory; I told him, If I came down, *Ready*

“ should certainly know I was his Wife ; if
 “ not, and my Grandmother came again, she
 “ should, by Force, hear me.” He flew into
 a most terrible Passion, which I had never seen
 him in before ; declaring, “ I was bent upon
 “ his Ruin ; for his Creditors, now in Expec-
 “ tation of a Fortune, by Marriage, would be
 “ patient ; but, the Moment that Hope was
 “ cut off, what Money was owing would
 “ directly be called for ; and where was there
 “ a Possibility of raising it ? Were my Grand-
 “ mother dead, there would be no Objection ;
 “ a large Sum might be raised on *Sidbury*.”

He went on raging, “ There is not the least
 “ Room for Uneasiness : Are you not my
 “ Wife ? And is it possible for me to marry
 “ another ? If you do tell, it will convince
 “ me I have neither your Love or Esteem.
 “ —I will allow you a separate Maintenance ;
 “ but, by G—d, I will never see you more.”

His Anger terrified me to Death. His
 Threats, and Dread of the Misfortunes attend-
 ing my Declaration, made me a very miserable
 Woman, and frightened me into Silence. How
 would any Wife have acted ? I readily agree,
 as Things have turned out, it would have been
 well for Miss *Warnford* had I disobeyed my
 Husband ; but give me Leave to ask, What
 would have been said of Mrs. *Cresswell*, if the
 Discovery had ruined her Husband, who would

H

have

have been obliged to fly his Country?—For so Things were always represented to me. He had not then shewn himself the Villain, but would (justly, in outward Appearance) have been esteemed a worthy, honest Man, undone by the Folly (would have been the mildest Terms) of a discontented ungrateful Wife. I dried up my Tears, took a large Quantity of Drops, and went down to Supper; but could not raise my Spirits, either to eat or talk. Mr. *Ready* perceived my Distress, and said, “Young Lady, you look as if you had lost your Love.” His Jest cut me to the Heart: Without Reply I left the Room. He must see, that his Errand was the Cause of my Sorrow: I wished he might, not doubting, but, as a Friend of Mrs. *Warnford* he would tell her my Grief. They went, Mr. *Cresswell* told me his Visits must continue a little longer, and desired me not to add to his Pain by my Uneasiness; but rest assured, he would, when Prudence permitted, break off the Acquain-

¹ *Narr.* p. 23. “Your Sister, with Chearfulness, accepted my Proposals, &c. Page 28.—“This Night, at Supper, your Sister, knowing the Business, appeared very uneasy, &c.”—Will both these Accounts be believed? Why was I very uneasy at a Scheme I lately so chearfully accepted, and which, according to his Account, was to double my Fortune? If I loved him, could I possibly be chearful? If I was avaritious, at what was I dissatisfied?

tance.

tance. I was much dissatisfied ; but his Fury, on my last Complaint, had so frightened me, I was silent ; not daring, for a great while, to murmur at his Visits, more than when he went, to say, “ Sure, this will be the last ? ” And, at his Return, ask, If it was ended ? He always said, “ No : But his Visits were as to “ any other Neighbour. There was constantly “ Company, which prevented the Talk about “ Settlements, and that must be the Reason for “ his breaking off.” Still the Visits continued, when only the Mother, Aunt and Daughter were at Home. I ventured to speak again, in the mildest Manner, (first entreating him not to be in a Passion) I begged him to break off his Acquaintance at *Bibury* immediately, lest a Continuance should gain the Lady’s Affection ; a cruel Thing, and what he could not forgive himself, if, at parting (which we both knew must soon happen) she should be in the least concerned. “ Don’t fear that, said he, “ I never speak to her, my Conversation is all “ with the Mother. The young one hates me, “ will never drink to me at Table, or bow “ when I drink to her ; and will, I dare say, “ be as glad as either of us when it is over, “ which shall be the next Visit.—We have “ differed about the *Shropshire* Estate being “ settled ; I absolutely refused it, and they “ will not comply without : Granny knows no-

“ thing of this, and to deceive her, I shall, at
 “ setting out, say, I shall be married before
 “ my Return. Thinking me willing, she will
 “ not suspect my Refusal owing to any Thing,
 “ but their unreasonable Demand of her Join-
 “ ture.” At his Return, to my very great
 Surprize, he told her, he was not married yet,
 Nar. p. 34* because Miss *Warnford* had a Rash; but it
 would be the next Visit. The Moment we
 were alone, I asked him, eagerly, Why he had
 not given the Reason he promised me, for
 now I found another Visit was designed? He
 said “ They are in such a d——n’d Hurry to
 “ marry the Daughter, they will comply with-
 “ out the *Shropshire* Estate, which, through
 “ *Lea*, or some other, my Grandmother will
 “ hear of; so that Reason cannot be given.
 “ It is not certain Miss *Warnford* will enjoy
 “ *Bibury* Estate after her Mother’s Death, so
 “ that must be the Objection, * and it will be
 “ impossible for them, or any else to suspect
 “ the

* Narr. p. 34, says, “ She not only knew every mate-
 “ rial Transaction, but almost every Word and Syllable
 “ that passed at *Bibury*, relating to this Affair. P. 35,
 “ I replying, that many Things happen between the Cup
 “ and the Lip, which was the only Hint I ever gave her
 “ from the Beginning to the Ending of this Courtship,
 “ that I ever thought there was even so much as a Possi-
 “ bility of its coming to nothing.” If these Accounts are
 true, there never was a Probability of its coming to no-
 thing. But it is plain, from Mr. *Cresswell*’s own Words,
 there

“ the true Cause ; but I must, again, at setting out, tell her I shall be married before I come back.” I never heard of Marriage Articles, nor do I believe, if there were any, they were brought to my Grandmother. The Settlements were not made till two Years after the Marriage †.

I did buy him Shirts, but not as designed Nar. p. 33, for his Wedding. He used to buy them of the *East-India* People ready made, and, for two Years, had been disappointed. Since our first Engagement, when we were together, I bought *Holland* and *Cambrick*, and my Maid was used to wrist and neck-band these Shirts.

there was oftentimes great Probability.—Page 29, A Neighbour's Information of what Mr. *Warnford* the Clergyman gave out, &c. which is a Doubt even now.—Page 30 and 31, Dissatisfaction about Mrs. *Warnford's* 2000 *l.* —Page 32, These Objections confirmed by the uncertain Inheritance of *Bibury*. “ I began to perceive, &c. tho' at the same Time I was determined, that, if ever I should have a fair and justifiable Cause, that I would have done with them.” Then follows an Obstacle or two more in this and the following Page.—Thus he confutes himself, even in his own Relation of this Matter ; for if all that passed at *Bibury* was known to me, I must have had many more, and much stronger Reasons to believe, that this Courtship would fail, than the very trifling Hint, “ That many Things happen between the Cup and the Lip.”

† See the End of Mr. *Cresswell's* Letter, p. “ My Wife's Settlement is made, and will be executed at *Burford* Races, &c.”

He

He could not now get any, and knows, that at the Time these were bought, his Stock, which commonly amounted to four, five, and often six Dozen, was now reduced to eight Shirts, so worn, they were with great Difficulty mended. I spoke to the Milliner above a Year before, about some Calico for that Purpose. Some Time after, seeing a Piece of, I think, six Shillings and Six-Pence a Yard, and knowing how greatly Mr. *Cresswell* wanted Shirts, I shewed it him at *Pinkney* : He said, it was not so fine or good as his own ; and, if Mr. *William Moreton* could get any, he would not have it ; if not, he would. I believe his Friend wrote Word, he could not get any, for he ordered me to buy that. About this Time the Talk of his courting Miss *Warnford* might begin. I really do not remember a Tittle that passed between the Milliner and me relating to the Courtship, or I would faithfully repeat it. If there did, most certainly I did not undeceive her, tho' to several speaking of it at that Time, I have said it would never be a Match ; but this was to very few ; for, in general, I allow evading in this, as in my own Marriage, which I again most solemnly affirm I never once positively denied, nor did I ever once say this would be.

Dwelling so long on these Trifles is very tedious ; but it would be imprudent to leave
my

my Enemies an Opportunity of saying the minuteſt Particular, which Decency will permit me to take Notice of, is unanſwered. My own Sex will allow my Task hard, being aſhamed to own even the reading of ſuch an infamous Account.

When Mr. *Creſſwell's* Mourning for his Father was out, he went one Viſit to *Bibury* in an old laced Coat, ſo little it would not button. Before the next Journey, he bought a common Stuff Coat of a Country Taylor, it was to be lined with Shag: Patterns were brought, and my Opinion publickly aſked. I thought Red ſuited the Stuff, which had that Caſt, better than Green, and was more proper for the Seaſon. It is certain, I was preſent when both Shirts and Coat were bought; but had Mr. *Creſſwell* committed Murder, or any other Crime, I might have been as juſtly accuſed of knowing them bought for that Intent, as for his Wedding. The beſt Answer to his Charge, in theſe Particulars, is by referring thoſe, who would be farther ſatiſfied to Mr. *Simpſon*, Taylor, and Mr. —, Mercer, in *London*, who ſold Mr. *Creſſwell* and Miſs *Warnford* what they appeared in as Wedding-Cloaths, Months after their Marriage.

In answer to Mr. *Creſſwell's* Questions, “ Is Nar. p. 34.
 “ it uſual, &c.” It is very common to buy
 Wedding-

Wedding-Cloaths, and yet not marry. It is not usual to sign Articles, nor did I suspect any ; those would have undeceived me. In my Turn let me ask a few Questions : Is it usual, in a Match calculated for Interest, (Nobody will doubt this being so) to hurry it on to the finishing without full Settlements ? Is it usual, in such a Match, to lay aside the Finery of Jewels, Wedding-Cloaths, &c ? Is it usual, for a Lover, in such a Courtship, never once to stay so long at a Time as a Week with his Mistress, making each Time of his Absence as long, often longer ? Yet all these happened in this Match ; and these very Arguments he used to convince me he had no Design, but to deceive my Grandmother. Why did he prevent a Meeting between the Women of each Family, but because he must then be detected ? What his Reason to Mrs. *Warnford* was, I know not ; but this he gave me, “ The Courtship was only Pretence, and he did not desire I should be acquainted with the Family.”

I have already shewn the Art used by Mr. *Cresswell*, even to the last Visit before his Marriage, and will proceed with as strict an Account of what happened after. He had been gone but a few Days, when one Evening, my Grandmother's Maid running hastily into the Parlour where we were (she walking, and I mending

mending a Morning-Gown of his) said,—
 “ Some Man riding thro’ *Bibury* that Morn-
 “ ing, had seen Mr. *Cresswell* and Miss *Warn-*
 “ *ford* coming out of the Church.” Nothing,
 in Nature, can ever give me a greater Shock.
 My Thoughts are not within my Power of
 Description. I threw the Gown from me, and
 ran to my Chamber. I flung myself upon the
 Bed, where I cried, without ceasing, full three
 Hours. I had ten thousand different Resolution,
 but knew not which to follow.—“ I will go
 “ directly to *Bibury*, and claim my Husband.—
 “ How shall I get thither, unless my Grand-
 “ mother will give Leave?—I will tell
 “ her,—surely she will hear me now.”—
 I considered how I should break it to her.—
 “ Good God, I cried, if he is married, what
 “ signifies any Thing I do?—This Thought
 flattered me with the Possibility of the Report
 being false, and prevented my speaking. Here
 was a Gleam of Hope, which afforded me
 some Relief. I reflected upon what he would
 say, if, returning and telling me all was ended,
 he would give me no more Pain by his Visits
 to *Bibury*, &c. I should be forced to own my
 Distrust had made me believe a flying Report,
 and tell my Grandmother of our Marriage.—
 This, and many more such Thoughts, silenced
 me for the present. He returned in a Week ;
 he came directly to me (I was alone) with a

Countenance too plainly discovering his Guilt, owned the Report true, called himself Dog, Villain, &c. but offered, in Excuse, his great Want of Money——“ That she was the most
 “ disagreeable Wretch he ever saw, and on
 “ Account of her extreme bad Constitution
 “ could not possibly live a Year—That no
 “ Child could ever be ; if there was, it and
 “ the mother must certainly die——But yet,
 “ he was infatuated to do so vile a Thing—
 “ That L—d D—e had hurried him on, by
 “ continually saying, If he did not make haste,
 “ she would be dead before he had her.”—
 With a great deal more that I had not Patience to hear. I regarded not the Chance of her Death, or any of the Excuses he attempted making : I really was, for a Time, very near, if not quite mad.—Determined to tell my wretched Situation, I got up to leave the Room, but he forcibly stopped me.—He desired me to calm myself, for I should hear what he had to say, and then might act as I pleased. It will plainly appear I was compelled to do as he pleased. “ You are, says he, determined to
 “ tell the World you are my Wife——Tho’ it
 “ is in mine, it is not in your Power to prove
 “ this ; and, by G—d, I will deny it ; the
 “ World will then think you my Mistress.
 “ But be silent, and I will never trouble you
 “ more ; live with my Grandmother, where I
 “ will

“ will never come, or in any Way molest you.
 “ As Miss *Scrope*, you will be respected. At
 “ her Death you shall enjoy the *Shropshire*
 “ Estate left you in my Will (which he then
 “ gave me.) That, you know, was your de-
 “ signed Settlement, and there is an Equiva-
 “ lent during her Life.” Here he pulled a
 Paper out of his Pocket, and offered me ; I
 snatched it, and threw it in his Face, saying,
 “ As he had disposed of himself, so he might
 “ of his Money, for I wanted neither.” My
 Passion had no Effect, he went on like a calm
 Villain——“ With the *Shropshire* Estate you
 “ may marry, or live single ; but, I hope,
 “ Time and your Duty, if this Woman should
 “ die, will induce you to forgive this Injury.
 “ Tho’ for a Time we live apart, I shall, if
 “ so happy to bury her, use all possible Means
 “ to gain you for my second Wife. You,
 “ really, are my First ; but so Circumstanced,
 “ I cannot, or will own you.—If you do, you
 “ know the Consequence.”——I did not quit
 my Resolution of telling my Misfortunes ;
 certain, that my Innocence would appear, if
 he did deny our Marriage. But his repeated
 Threats, if I did, and Promises of never
 disturbing me, if I did not, induced me to
 Secrecy. I told him, “ He had made me the
 “ most miserable of Women ; but, since there
 “ was no Redress in my Power, and attempt-

“ ing any would only hurt myself, and my
 “ Family, I must learn to bear these Afflic-
 “ tions with Patience, till it pleased God to
 “ take me from them.” Thus we parted ;
 avoiding each other, as much as possible, dur-
 ing his Visits at *Pinkney*. I do not believe
 we were one Moment alone. He soon returned
 to *Bibury*, and, in a short Time, they all set
 out for *London*.

Before the *London* Journey, my Grandmo-
 ther insisted upon my paying her Compliments
 at *Bibury*. Being told by him, that Mrs.
Warnford resented her not coming ; she re-
 plied, “ I am an old Woman, and can’t
 “ visit.” He answered, “ They knew that, and
 “ had told him her Grand-daughter was not
 “ an old Woman, who went in her Stead to
 “ other Places.” I absolutely refused going,
 till she, in great Anger, insisted upon my
 Compliance ; adding, “ Miss, What Reason
 “ can you have for not going ? You had bet-
 “ ter tell the World you are angry *Tommy* did
 “ not marry you.” I was forced to go, or
 own the Reason of my Refusal. My Beha-
 viour, in that Visit, with what I have been
 informed, Mrs. *Warnford* before heard of a
 Marriage, or Engagement, between us, must
 greatly alarm her. From some odd Expres-
 sions, I judge, she then repented the not hav-
 ing seen or wrote to me before. Mr. *Cresswell*
 acknow-

acknowledged, that she charged him with it in his Courtship, and that he only evaded, did not deny the Charge. To what Purpose did she charge him ? If he was honest, could that be necessary ? If he was a Villain, what could she expect but a Lie ? I did not believe this on his Word only ; for I did not imagine, a Woman could be so weak not to search such a Report to the Bottom ; which, if true, must infallibly Ruin her Daughter in Point of Fortune : I could not imagine a Mother would, notwithstanding such Suspicion, risque an only Child's Happiness, on the Word of a Man, who must break that Word, if her Suspicions were true. Should she not have reasoned thus ?

“ To ask Miss *Scrope* cannot possibly prejudice, or even affront her.—Not to ask her, may prejudice her, me, and my Daughter, in the tenderest Point.—If they are married, she may be afraid to speak, being engaged in Silence by her Husband.” I would not have spoke so strongly only on Mr. *Cresswell's* Word, but that is confirmed by the Letter in the Supplement to the *British Magazine*, for the Year 1747, wrote in the Person of her Daughter, and signed *W*. If that be Miss *Warnford's* Letter, what can the Mother say in Excuse, either to her or me ? Is she not justly punished for disregarding those very just Remonstrances of her Daughter ? And is she not

greatly culpable for such an unjust, irreligious Compulsion ? I pity the young Lady from my Soul ; and wish she had found a kinder and wiser Director in her Mother. In repeating Mr. *Cresswell's* Conversation at different Times, many ill-natured Expressions concerning her are recited ; but I have suppressed many more shocking in his Letters ; for I would not designedly do a Thing to give that Woman Pain upon any Account. We are both heavy Sufferers, and had we met with wiser Conductors, or a better Man, the same Proportion of Happiness, that we now have of Misery, might have been the Lot of both. I condemn Mrs. *Warnford*, but I hate her not. She has my sincere Forgiveness, tho' her Folly and Imprudence have largely contributed to my Misery. She must, I am sure, perceive my great Confusion and Concern on seeing the then called Bride. Not wishing Joy (which I told him I would not) must appear very strange to them. I think my Stay was from *Saturday* till *Tuesday* ; all which Time I was a most miserable dejected Creature. A pretended Head-ach was an Excuse for getting early to Bed ; where, tho' no Sleep was to be had, yet I was then free from the direct Object that caused my Pain. I will not attempt to describe what I suffered ; it is not in the Power of Words to do it ; never was there so compleat a Wretch. The Morning

ing fixed for my Return proved very rainy ; they all agreed it was impossible for me to go ; I said, it was impossible for me to stay. He went some Miles with me ; I would willingly have spared him that Trouble, and my Afflictions wanted not the Addition of his Company. The Weather was, indeed, very bad. He pressed my Return, but in vain. The Penance was over, and my Release felt too easy to let me return again to the Rack. Besides, I knew he could not go far with me, and his Absence was the only Relief my Misery would admit. I would not undergo such another Trial, for all the Ease and Happiness this World can bestow. We parted, and I came to *Pinkney*, extremely wet and cold.—My Mind, by Degrees, grew calmer, and, when they were in *London*, I was tolerably easy,¹⁷⁴⁴ comforted with the Thoughts of living quiet and retired at *Sidbury* ; where, I knew, we must go on their Return.

He came from *London* to *Pinkney* the latter End of *April*, or Beginning of *May*, and desired my Grandmother to prepare immediately for her Journey ; he must soon bring his Wife home. This was the first Time I had heard him call her so, and cannot say it shocked me much. Punch was made every Night, a Ser-^{Nar. p. 36.} vant always standing by with the Tea-Kettle, till it was ready to take in. The Conversation

tion he pretends, and his following Account is, I protest, one continued Falshood, entirely his own Invention. It is impossible for me to speak minutely of this. Mr. *Cresswell* knew he wrote of a Woman, and therefore wrote indecently to prevent an Answer. I declare solemnly, that so far from such a scandalous Intimacy, we were hardly ever alone. He knew my Wrongs were too fresh to make any Attack of that Kind. I think, during our Stay, he was, in all, three Times at *Pinkney*; once he brought Mrs. and Miss *Warnford* to take their Leave of my Grandmother. Their Visit was but two Days; I was then more unconcerned than at *Bibury*, but, I believe, Mrs. *Warnford* was still unsatisfied. One Day talking of Marriage, she said to me, "Most Men reserve something for a second Wife; Mr. *Cresswell* has done so, which I think wrong; for sure, when People marry, they hope to live long together." This Speech hurt and confused me greatly: My Answer was, "Most People, I believe, think so; tho' some are so unhappy to be deceived."—As I had discovered nothing; in all Particulars since his Marriage, (that Answer excepted) I carefully endeavoured to act as Miss *Scrope*, without her Misfortunes, would have acted. They went, and we prepared for our Journey.

He

He would wait upon my Grandmother to ^{Narr. p 38.} *Sidbury*: We set out the 7th of *June*. This was very irksome to me; but she was pleased with the Offer, and I was forced to submit. He staid about ten Days; we were never alone. Soon after he was gone, my Brother came from *Lincoln*; his Company was some Relief, but my Relief was not to last long. I was soon plagued with complaining Letters from Mr. *Cresswell*, full of Repentance for what he had done, and dreadful Accounts of his extreme Misery: "That he could not live without me but was resolved to own our Marriage; and, by making the best Husband, force me to forget the Wrongs I had suffered." My Answers were cool and reproachful, and produced very angry Letters, "Charging me with Want of Duty," telling me, "The Offer he made me should banish all Resentment; besides, that Christianity enjoined me Obedience, for his Crime could not free me; and that I kept my Brother at *Sidbury* to prevent his Coming." This was true, I did wish my Brother's Stay, tho' I feared to own it, greatly dreading Mr. *Cresswell* designed what he wrote; and I had no

^u *Narr. p. 38.* "She, in her Letters, told me, she had done every Thing, &c. to prevent your continual Stay there, &c." † This I don't believe, for my Sister always encouraged my coming to *Sidbury*.

great Inclination to live with him, after such gross Abuses. He came a Day or two before my Brother went. During his Stay, I never saw so submissive a Behaviour: He loaded himself with the keenest Reproaches, and begged me to meet him in Town the following Spring, in order to prove our Marriage. I thought him sincerely penitent, yet feared to trust him; so waved the *London* Scheme as unnecessary, since he might as easily prove the Marriage in my Absence. He replied, "No, it is not registered, and the Parson must see you, or how can he give a Certificate?" These Proposals induced me to admit him alone. I own he confounded me with Arguments. My Inclination was against him, but I dared not too strongly irritate a Man on whom my Happiness, or Misery, must yet depend, if he claimed me. I verily believed he designed it, and therefore, endeavoured to conquer that Aversion. I promised to meet him in *London*, and he directly returned to *Pinkney*.

Nar. p. 40. In *February* I set out, and lodged with Mrs. *Bathurst* and Miss *Lees*, chusing Company to prevent his coming too often. The first Opportunity our Conversation was wholly on this Subject; to relate all that passed would be tedious; however, it ended in nothing. I soon found he had no good Design in this Scheme, seeking only Opportunities of being alone,
under

under Pretence of consulting in what Manner to publish our Marriage. It was Pretence only, he always started Objections to any of my Proposals ; yet I did not immediately detect him. He dissembled so far, as even to take me one Morning to meet the Clergyman, but deceived me *most villainously*. Finding his Plots unravelled, he threw off the Mask, and directly pressed my Compliance as a Wife without any Publication. This left me no Room to doubt. I insisted on his quitting *London*, and never troubling me more, or I would instantly declare our Marriage. He did not chuse that ; but before he was quite well, re-Nar. p.41. turned Home. Soon after I heard from him of Miss *Warnford's* Delivery, and greatly hoped this Child would prevent his farther Designs of parting with the Mother. I wished never to see him more. He was now as hateful in my Eyes as he had been once pleasing : I listened to his Proposals thro' Fear only ; and was, on every Occasion, against a Separation. My Stay 1745. in Town after was two Months. I considered what Method was best to avoid him for the future. *Sidbury* must be open to both, therefore that was no Place for me.

I went to *Lincoln*, designing to live with my Brother : There was my Home till *July*. This was not to be the End of my Afflictions. An unexpected Accident brought me where I

dreaded to come. My Grandmother, now almost Eighty, was struck with the Palsy, and Nar. p. 42. all thought lay on her Death-Bed. A Servant came Express to *Lincoln* to inform me of her Illness. I guessed too well that Journey would bring me to Mr. *Cresswell*; yet how could I absent myself from a dying Parent, anxious to see me, who had brought me up from a Child? Would it not have been Want of Duty and Humanity in the highest Degree? To remedy all Inconveniences, I pressed my Brother to go with me. He could not, but promised to come within a Month, and then stay so long as she lived: This was some Comfort. Within that Time I thought she would hardly be out of Danger, and the Concern for so good a Parent, as she had been on all Occasions to Mr. *Cresswell*, would keep him quiet for so short a Time. But it was foolish to suppose Decency, or Duty, could influence such a Man. Her Illness forced me sometimes to be alone with him; when, notwithstanding the melancholy Scene, his whole Conversation pressed my Compliance, urging Obedience, the Duty of a Wife, &c. It had no Effect. My constant Answer ever displeased him; “ Mr. *Cresswell*, “ in the Character of Miss *Scrope*, I am frequently obliged to admit you as a Relation; “ but as a Husband, be assured I never will “ till our Marriage is proved: If that is really “ your

“ your Design, I will endeavour to revive my
 “ lost Affection, and make you as good a Wife
 “ as I possibly can.” His Replies were generally evasive, and his Silence, while he staid, convinced me, that he could not bear the Thoughts of returning Miss *Warnford*’s Fortune, and publickly acknowledging himself so bad a Man. This was pleasing, tho’ I dared not say so. I thought it cruel that she, or the Child, should suffer, who, as well as myself, were perfectly innocent. His Expressions of her were virulent to the last Degree ; and his eager Wishes for her Death terrified me excessively. Let any Wife imagine an Husband, she once tenderly loved, and thought the honestest of Men, sunk to this wretched low State of Wickedness, then she may guess what I felt. As soon as my Grandmother got a little better, I told Mr. *Cresswell*, he must leave *Sidbury*, or I would. He left us the first of *August* : In a few Days my Brother came, and staid with me (except short Absences on Business) till the Year before the last. In this Time I received perpetually Letters from Mr. *Cresswell*, “ Bemoaning his miserable Situation
 “ at Home, and his Determination to part
 “ with Miss *Warnford* ; entreating me to leave
 “ *England* with him, and then publish our Marriage. This would not do, I dared not trust him ; but must own, being so far convinced

of the Duty of my Obedience, that I was puzzled how to act. Must I be condemned, without Mercy, if I allow likewise, that his Sufferings, real or pretended, moved my Pity. Tho' I did not comply with his Scheme, I softened my own Terms, and proposed telling our Situation to my Brothers, and then acting as they judged reasonable. These are the Letters he calls warm. Perhaps they were less complaining than usual ; but I am sure they were complaining. I knew myself really his first Wife, that his second Marriage was absolutely without my Consent ; but once irretrievable, wished him to rest satisfied without me. This he promised at first, and, had he kept that Promise, I should, as far as I could, have forgot him, and the Misery he had loaded me with. He would not ; and what was there not to be dreaded from such a Man ? If determined, it was in his Power to have me by Compulsion, and by his frequent Hints there was great Reason to fear Miss *Warnford's* Death might be the Introduction of such an Event. Was it not, therefore, most prudent and just to persuade him to settle all Things amicably with the Mother ? I desired him to give up *Pinkney*, reserving only the *Shropshire* Estate for us and our Children ; and as an Inducement, endeavoured to shew my Regard greater than it really was ; a very difficult Task. I never,
in

in any Letter to him before his second Marriage, used any Expressions of Tenderneſs, but what he directly dictated. From his second Marriage, to this Time, and even now, they were filled with Complaints and Reproaches, except thoſe Parts that answered his Deſign of owning me : That, thro' a Senſe of Duty, I promoted, therefore pretended an Affection. What he means by warm, I know not ; but, am ſure, there never was an Expreſſion in any Letter of mine unbecoming the moſt reſerved Wife. There were Encouragements for his Coming to *Sidbury*, and Promiſes of talking Nar. p. 44. with him alone, notwithstanding my Brother and Miſs *Lee* were there. He had, by Letters from *Briſtol*, told me of having talked a great deal to Mrs. *Warnford*, and Things were now near ripe for a Diſcovery, they having agreed to a Separation ; but he muſt talk with me before all Things were compleated. All this too was confirmed by common Report, and that he hardly ever went Home, tho' but a Morning's Ride from *Briſtol*, they were ſo very unhappy together ; which always increaſed my Fears for her, and made me preſs a Publication more than elſe I ſhould have done. He came, and had frequent Opportunities of being alone with me : (Breakfaſting every Morning in my Chamber before the reſt of the Family :) It is needleſs to give his repeated Arguments for me

me to live with him, and conceal our Marriage. I ever absolutely refused that, yet hoped to bring him to my Terms, thinking it my Duty on every Account to gain this Point. He was my Husband, tho' a very great Villain, and Miss *Warnford* could have no Loss of so furly a Master; besides, tho' she knew not her Danger, I did, since he who wishes the Death of any one, has, already, taken a great Step towards the Completion of his Wish.

Perhaps, People will say, "She ought to have risqued every Thing, and on no Account have seen him after so many repeated Villanies." Let them consider my Situation maturely before they determine. If the Event must have been the same, tho' my Actions had been different, and that Event probable to me at any Time, then my Actions were manifestly wrong. But another Event, Miss *Warnford's* Death, seemed ever a greater Probability to me, which would have been infinitely more dreadful than ought that has happened. Was there not Room to suppose him capable of this Crime, after his Conscience was seared with two such horrible ones, as a *proposed* Murder (such the Destruction of a Child before the Birth most certainly is) and a *committed* Adultery of the blackest Kind. The Laws of God could have no Influence on him. The Laws of Men could only influence him, so far as to make him

him secret; and can a Man have fairer Hopes of Secrecy than with a Wife? Few have a Task so difficult assigned them; I would not perplex and punish my bitterest Enemy with such a Trial. If my Actions were wrong, they were the Fault of my Judgment.—I never once, in this whole Affair, acted but through a Sense of its being religiously my Duty; nor was there any one suspected Pleasure that, to have been freed from, I would not have exchanged for severe Pain, during the same Space of Time. Oh! My God, that every Thought of my Heart for my whole Life could be exposed to the most publick View! Cruel Restraint, that I am forced to be silent! No Part of my Behaviour can be censured ~~at~~ this Time, nor do I deserve Condemnation for any Thing that passed now. I was less reserved; but that was ineffectual. He could not bear the Thought of owning himself a Villain; nor I the Infamy of living as his Mistress: He was the former; but I was not the latter. About two Days before he went he shocked me excessively, abruptly saying, “ Well, *Betty*, will you live with me without a Discovery? I said, No. He replied, “ Then I am sure it is only Miss *Warnford* prevents you; I greatly hoped she would have died of her first Child; if she has another I will see no great Care shall be

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“ taken

“ taken of her. I dreamed last Night, that
 “ I stuck my Bayonet into her Breast, which,
 “ till I waked, gave me as much Joy as the
 “ News of her Death would.” I answered,
 “ You know the Terms on which you may
 “ have me. The Death of Miss *Warnford* will
 “ be of no Consequence, after this Threat,
 “ even if she died a natural Death, I should
 “ suspect some unfair Dealing, and would never
 “ see you more : But, be assured, if her Death
 “ should proceed from any Want of Care, I
 “ will directly declare our Marriage ; with
 “ this and other Threats, you have before
 “ used.” He replied, “ I wish she was dead.
 “ —To be sure, *Betty*, Murder is a very great
 “ Crime ; yet had you committed that, or the
 “ greatest Crime human Nature is capable of,
 “ I should love you.” I said, “ My Love
 “ never was of that Sort, and am certain it
 “ never will be.”—He left *Sidbury*.—

February. Mr. *Lee*'s first Visit was on Business with
 Mr. *Cresswell* ; his Stay two or three Days.
 Before he returned Mr. *Cresswell* was gone.
 He staid now somewhat longer on my Bro-
 ther's Promise, that he, Miss *Lee*, and I,
 would then go with him to *Coton* for a Week.
 1746. Our Visits continued thus till I had the Measles.
 Mr. *Cresswell*, hearing that he paid his Ad-
 dresses to me, wrote to know the Truth. I
 answered, “ There was not the least Reason for
 “ such

“such Report; if there should, he knew my
 “Conscience would not let me follow his
 “Example.” Few Letters passed before my
 Sickness. Mr. *Lee*’s Intentions now were
 plainly seen. I never saw a Man so much con-
 cerned. It is true, he was almost continually
 in my Chamber^w, nor were Remonstrances of
 the least Consequence: Some of the Family
 were generally with him. His Concern was so
 extraordinary, that (my Brother told me) when
 he could not be in my Chamber he would
 never sit in Company, but walk alone for
 Hours, till he was admitted. He himself saw
 my Dissatisfaction at his Obstinacy, and told
 me his designed Courtship. Talking much
 about his first Disappointment, he concluded,
 “Now Mr. *Cresswell* can be no Rival.” His
 Declaration gave me great Pain. I told
 him, “He was mistaken, Mr. *Cresswell*
 “was a most egregious Villain, he had abused
 “me monstrously; and that it was not in

^w *Narr.* p. 45. “Until you, Sir, as you told me,
 “were tired, &c. being vexed at the indecent Liberties
 “Mr. *Lee* used towards your Sister, &c.

† I never told Mr. *Cresswell* that I was vexed at the
 indecent Liberties you took with my Sister, nor do I know
 that you was in her Bed-Chamber when she was in Bed,
 but when she had the Measles, and then, either I, some of
 your Sisters, or the Servants were generally there; nor do
 I believe my Sister ever went to *Coton* when you alone was
 there, * * * * *

“ my Power to marry while that Villain lived.”
 The Concern, with which this was spoke, convinced him I had been most vilely abused, and determined him to be my Friend, though he could not be my Husband. Pressing much to know what possible Engagement could bind me to a married Man ; I told him, “ My
 “ Misfortunes were of a very uncommon Sort,
 “ and he must think no more of me, for I
 “ never could be his.” Remaining silent a little while, he said, “ It is now eight Years
 “ since I first courted you, and was disappointed by Mr. *Cresswell*. What his Art and
 “ Villainy can have been to prevent you now,
 “ he being married, is beyond my Guess. It
 “ cannot be impossible for you to be mine,
 “ though you say it is. I love you, nor can
 “ I ever think of marrying any other Woman ; at least esteem me your Friend, and
 “ let me continue to see you.” “ That, replied
 “ I, must be as he pleases ; if he does me
 “ Justice, the World will soon know my
 “ State.” He doubted I was still deceived, and asked, If I had kept any of Mr. *Cresswell*’s Letters ? Saying, No ; he desired me to follow his Advice for the future in keeping all that came, for they might stand me in great Stead.—
 On my Recovery I was, by Promise to Mrs. *Batburst* and Miss *Lee*, to spend a Month at *Colon*, they having been full that Time at *Sidbury*.

bury. Other Visits prevented so long a Stay immediately, so I went for three or four Days. Within two Mr. *Cresswell* came to *Sidbury*, and my Brother directly sent for me home. *June.* Miss *Lee* came with me. It was on a *Sunday*, and I staid from Church on Purpose to tell him Mr. *Lee's* Courtship ; which I had discouraged by Hints, letting him think me married to him. He did not seem at all angry, but determined that should be known, and desired me to break off Acquaintance at *Coton*. I said, that could not be done abruptly, being engaged to Mrs. *Bathurst* and Miss *Lee* for a Month's Visit. I was determined to know his Designs, to follow Mr. *Lee's* Advice, and suffer myself to be deceived no longer. I told him, " I could not, nor would, bear Mr. *Lee's*,
 " or any one's, having a bad Opinion of my
 " Virtue : That the last Visit I had been free
 " from Reserve, hoping it would induce him
 " to act justly ; since it had not, he should no
 " more be alone with me." In short, by my whole Behaviour, he saw me bent upon a Discovery.—I had endured Afflictions long enough, and while they only concerned myself, troubled nobody with Complaints. Now Miss *Warnford's* Life was apparently in Danger, as was my Reputation, which must hurt my Family also, I resolved to act in a different Manner. A Discovery of my unhappy Circumstances
 I must

must make a great Disturbance ; but what would be the Consequence of a longer Concealment ? I said, “ If Mr. *Lee* spoke any more, I would “ reveal the whole.” He begged me not. “ His Stay should be short. A Month after “ should settle all his Affairs, then he would “ come to my Brother, or else engage him to “ *Pinkney*, where he would likewise endeavour “ to get *Fred.* and *Carr*, and acquaint them all “ with it, before it was known to the World.” I was satisfied, and Mr. *Lee* would never have been troubled with my Misfortunes, if Mr. *Cresswell* had kept his Word.——Instead of that, he went with my Brother, and me, to see Miss *Lee* safe home, where he behaved, as Mr. *Lee* relates, in his first publick Letter *. This Conversation, and my former Hints, convinced Mr. *Lee*, that I was his first Wife, tho’ he designed I should be thought his Mistress. He thought the Scheme was to prevent his coming to *Sidbury*, and consequently seeing me. With the former he complied, but determined to destroy the other : He sent his Sister with a Message, “ That I had used him very ill in “ receiving his Addresses, and, at the Desire

* *Narr.* p. 48. “ We all went to *Coton*, where Mr. *Lee* “ says I insulted him ; but as I have declared an hundred “ Times since, so I do now, that I did not mean it as “ such.”

† ——— Went over with a Design of affronting him.

“ of

“ of *Cresswell*, deserting him.” After what I had told him, the Message astonished me ; I knew not what Answer to give. I did not acknowledge that her Brother had ever spoke to me, only protested I had not used him ill, which was true. She said, “ He was positive I was married, or worse, to *Cresswell*.” In short, she spoke so strongly, I had a great Inclination to tell her ; but as Mr. *Cresswell* had promised to acquaint my Brothers with it so soon, I did not. I told all this to Mr. *Cresswell*, who ordered me to go to *Coton*, and tell Mr. *Lee*, I meant not to be his Wife. Nar.p.49. This was really needless, but that Mr. *Cresswell* knew not : I went, and at my Return, said, I had obeyed his Commands. In this Visit Mr. *Lee*, repeating the Conversation at their last Meeting, concluded thus : “ Can you think that a Man, pretending to religious, or even moral Principles, could have talked in this Manner ?” I said, “ No : For Religion, I always feared him unsettled ; but in Morality, till Years after our Engagement, I thought him severely good, and am most unfortunate in being deceived.” — “ Well then,” replied he, for the future repose no Confidence in him. Whatever Obligations you may (in your own Opinion) lie under, yet in that too you may be deceived : They may be Obligations founded on Opinion only.

“ Either

“ Either you are his Wife, or his Mistress, (do
 “ not be angry that I speak so grossly) though
 “ I cannot tell how to think you the former,
 “ no one Action of your Life can make me
 “ suspect you deserve the other Character. If
 “ the former, yet you cannot be his, unless
 “ he acts in the most open Manner ; conse-
 “ quently his publick Behaviour alone, can
 “ render you obliged ; if the latter, you are
 “ indeed under an Obligation of the strictest
 “ Nature—to quit him immediately, and with
 “ him a State, which, in your cooler Hours,
 “ you cannot but think upon with Horror.
 “ Do not condemn me, if I speak too se-
 “ verely ; mine are Gueßes only. Tell me,
 “ truly, your Misfortunes, and I will not only
 “ give you my Advice, but assist you to put
 “ that Advice in Practice with all in my
 “ Power. I love you entirely ; and if Time
 “ and Patience will possibly gain you, will ne-
 “ ver, while you live, think of any other Wo-
 “ man.” Will any one be surprized, that I
 listened to a Man, who had ever shewn for me
 so disinterested a Regard ? I wished him to
 know all, yet was resolved he should not then
 know it from me, therefore answered : “ Mr.
 “ *Lee*, I heartily thank you for your Advice :
 “ When ill, I told you, Mr. *Cresswell* had been
 “ a monstrous Villain, and that in his Life I
 “ could not marry ; what the Particulars of
 “ his

“ his ill Usage are, you must not now know ;
 “ yet I cannot bear you should think ill of me.
 “ In my Engagement with him, I never trans-
 “ gressed any one Point of Virtue. He has
 “ promised, within a Month after his Return
 “ to *Pinkney*, publickly to redress my Injuries.
 “ Excuse my being silent so long ; then, if
 “ he performs not his Promise, my Brother
 “ shall tell the whole to you, to whom I will
 “ reveal it.” He promised to ask me no far-
 “ ther ; but added, “ The Neighbours have hi-
 “ therto concluded there was a designed Mar-
 “ riage between us ; should our Acquaintance
 “ end upon *Cresswell’s* Account, your Re-
 “ putation must inevitably suffer. He is de-
 “ termined to make a Breach between me
 “ and your Brother, who comes into all his
 “ Schemes ; but I will disappoint him, and
 “ put it out of his Power to insult me farther,
 “ by coming no more to *Sidbury* while he stays.
 “ I see, likewise, his Design of breaking your
 “ Intimacy with my Sisters, by pressing Visits
 “ from them, but permitting you to make no
 “ Return : I will prevent that too, by making
 “ them insist on your promised Visits ; but,
 “ you must not be angry, if, to effect this, I
 “ speak of you as having deceived me, and
 “ being under Engagements to *Cresswell*, of
 “ whose Nature it is impossible for me to judge.
 “ This was my Design in sending *Molly* over

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“ with

“ with the Message, that you had used me ill,
 “ which I dare say surprized you much ; but
 “ I then saw these Schemes. At a proper Sea-
 “ son, when either *Cresswell* has told your
 “ Situation, or you have yourself declared it,
 “ then will I undeceive them. I am sorry my
 “ Conversation has given you so much Con-
 “ cern ; let me end it with an earnest Desire,
 “ that you insist on *Cresswell*’s immediately
 “ quitting *Sidbury*. Consider that the Month
 “ cannot too soon begin, at the End of which,
 “ it will be certain, whether he means you
 “ well or ill. In that Interval, on no Account,
 “ destroy any Letter.” I promised to keep
 all, and we parted. There was much Com-
 pany at *Coton*. I staid all Night, and re-
 turned the next Morning home, where Mr.
Lee never came during Mr. *Cresswell*’s Stay :
 His Sister *Molly* came frequently, constantly
 pressing my regular Returns of Visits so much,
 that at last he told her, my Health being bad,
 it was not the Part of a Friend to desire it.
 But she protested against coming, if I did
 not, for her Brother had a strange Opinion of
 me : It was plain, that from him, she guessed
 the Cause of my Absence. I knew this done,
 that Mr. *Cresswell* might permit my Visits, or
 absolutely command the contrary, which would
 oblige me to discover every Thing ; so disre-
 garded these Suspicions, certain, that my Mis-
 fortunes

fortunes made publick, would shew my Innocence in a very clear Light, and then he would own to his Sisters, that all was but an Inducement for me to visit on at *Coton*. Mr. *Cresswell* seemed inclined to stay, therefore a Month after his coming, in which Time he had been at *Gloucester* to be broke, I insisted on his quitting *Sidbury*, or I would. Seeming uneasy at my Engagement to pay the Month's Visit, I offered to put it off, but he ordered me to go. He left me with full Assurances that I should be no more disturbed; but, within a Month, he publicly known his first Wife. Notwithstanding his repeated Villanies, I was really weak enough to believe him. He set out the 18th of *July*, and on the 22d I received from him the following Letter.

" It was with the utmost regret that I left Mr. *Cress-*
 " my Dear Dear Betty and nothing but the ^{well to} expectation that we should meet and part no ^{Mifs}
 " more could have enabl'd me to support it *Scrope*.
 " yet I must needs say that your chearfulness
 " after you were convinced that I sincerely and
 " intirely loved you and your silent grife at
 " parting has gave me such A Calm serenity
 " of Mind that I was for some time before an
 " utter stranger to woe to gad you were as
 " thorowly satisfied of My Love to you but
 " as you wisely told me you never had any

“ proof of it yet my Dear it is not less ardent
 “ and if I knew how to convince you of it.
 “ it woud give me the greatest satisfactition
 “ imaginable I dare say no man in England
 “ does or ever did Love A woman better than
 “ I do thee nor none ever with more sincerity
 “ repented them of any misdeed > than I do
 “ for having married the beast at Bibury God
 “ we are told pardon’s all offences on A True
 “ and sincere repentance and A purpose of
 “ leading A new life As you imitate him as
 “ much as Mortal ever did in all respects pri-
 “ thee do in this and convince me of it by the
 “ care you will take of your Health and in the
 “ first place seek all amusements imaginable
 “ and let no Jealous fears of mine prevent
 “ thee put it not out of the power of provi-
 “ dence to make me happy w^{ch}. I assure thee
 “ solely thy death woud absolutely do——
 “ drink Brandy in thy Milk and be constant
 “ in riding every day and if y^c does not take
 “ of your Cough and Hectick Feaver let y^e

> *Narr.* p. 15, “ She would not consent but, &c. I
 “ to live sometimes with the one, sometimes with the
 “ other, &c.” Are these Passages, and this Expression,
 consistent? My Enemies will, perhaps, say, Yes: He
 might think it a Misdeed in Point of Morality, though she
 did consent. But what Reason can they assign for his ask-
 ing my Pardon in the very next Line? Could my Forgiveness
 be wanting, if he had my Consent? Would a Man
 have wrote such a Letter to Mr. *Cresswell*’s Miss *Scrope*?

“ Doctor

“ Doctor know it when you write to him
 “ * * * * * ——— keep steady to that
 “ opinion of yours that what ever is is right
 “ and build not intirely your notion of happi-
 “ nefs on the breath of y^e Multitude for
 “ there is not in the world so precarious A
 “ foundation be strickly vertuous and knowing
 “ thyself to be so mind not what any think If
 “ there is A God he must delight in vertue and
 “ what he delights in must be happy either
 “ here or hereafter I hope thou wilt be so in
 “ both places and make me so here w^{ch}. be-
 “ lieve me My Dear Girl what ever you may
 “ think of it it is your Duty to do thou art
 “ mine as much as it is possible for A woman
 “ to be A mans my having another does not
 “ make thee less so for by the Laws of this
 “ land I should quit tother and live with thee
 “ as it was our Mutual Agreement made us
 “ one so it must be our Mutual Agreement to
 “ seperate us you should quit father and mo-
 “ ther and cleave to thy Husband and that
 “ thou mayst have pleasure both in the thoughts
 “ of and in y^e performance of thy Duty is y^e
 “ sincere wish of &c.”

From the first Part of this Letter may be
 concluded his Design still continued ; but the
 Pretence of not knowing what would convince
 me of his Love, made it dubious ; and, as he
 had

“ if she is, tis none of my fault, I only do
 “ my duty, did I marry ^z her, besides I am
 “ sure he cannot be happy with such A beast,
 “ and I am sure I can make him happy, and
 “ if somebody must be miserable is it not bet-
 “ ter that she should than both us ? * * *

* * * * *
 * * * * *

“ When I was with you you often told me
 “ that I awed you and that you could not speak
 “ your mind paper will not Blush for Gods
 “ sake your own and mine write it and dont
 “ let me Awe you at this distance and do it
 “ freely and truly as you see I do and will to
 “ you but as you are very scrupulous ^a dont
 “ say any thing that you think will alter my
 “ Conduct to the beast y^r providence for my

^z *Narr.* p. 33. “ The Articles were finished and
 “ signed, a Copy of them I, &c. shewed your Sister, &c.
 “ She appeared perfectly satisfied.” If this is all true :
 How could he with, any Hope of Success, put this Que-
 stion into my Mouth ? “ Did I marry her ? ” I might in-
 deed say, No : But as a Woman, I did as much as I could
 towards it. How could I declare her Misery none of my
 Fault ? What Sort of Duty was to influence me ?

^a *Narr.* p. 77. “ Therefore I engaged her to live with
 “ me abroad, &c.” Was this a scrupulous Behaviour ?
 P. 36. “ Whilst we were making the Punch, &c. she
 “ answered, Do as you please.” Would he have cau-
 tioned me against being scrupulous had all this been true ?
 Acting thus, what Consideration could I have for Miss
 Warmsford's Happiness ?

“ fins

“ fins has yoaked me to * * * * *

My Answer to this was very long, and full of Complaints. The Servant, who took it to the Post, brought back the following.

Mr. Cress-
well to
Miss
Scrope.

*Letter of a
Sinner.*

“ Dear Betty tis now eight days y^e I have
“ been haunted with A Terrible Spectre y^e
“ continually presents to my sight Lee kissing
“ * * * * * “ I have no respite from
“ y^e Doemon sleeping or waking my eyes
“ open or shut all the same yet in y^e House &
“ abroad all other objects appear as they used
“ to dō but every where and in all places I see
“ Lee and you in vain have I called reason to
“ my aid & said twas impossible y^e one so Just
“ so pure so chaste so righteous & good could
“ commit so great an Evil one to wise to com-
“ mit so great A folly for didst thou really Love
“ him * * * * * you
“ might innocently for I beleive he wōd marry
“ thee and I thou knowest was ye to ask it wōd
“ consent w^{ch} Alone wōd make it just and law-
“ ful for thee and nothing in nature else can I
“ should consent was my consent to be atended
“ with immediate death or what I dread more
“ y^e total los of reason if I yet have any left

“ not y^e I think it w^od be attended with either
 “ but happinefs compared to my prefent ftate
 “ In vain have I tryed drinking company and
 “ ftrong exercife the fprite is to powerful for
 “ them all and never quitès me A moment.
 “ I will tell thee when and how he firft took
 “ poffeffion of me three nights fucceffively I
 “ dreamt * * * * * con-
 “ fidered them as Idle dreams and thought no
 “ more about it fome time afterwards happen-
 “ ing to be in company with M^r: Kinfcot at
 “ his own houfe he told me A Story concern-
 “ ing A woman of my Acquaintance that had
 “ no more relation to either thee or Lee than
 “ to the Queen of Spain fuddenly I felt A
 “ Crafh acrofs my forehead and instantly A
 “ dark mift came over my eyes in fo much
 “ that I could not fee at all it gradually went
 “ of and I faw again as well as I now do but
 “ the firft thing I faw was you and Lee fitting
 “ togeather * * * * * in y^e window
 “ w^{ch} togeather with y^e former had fuch An
 “ effect upon me that every body faw some-
 “ thing was the matter with me and all togea-
 “ ther afk what ailed me was I not well I faid
 “ I was instantaniously feazed with A violent
 “ head Ach and it paffed of you two I have
 “ always feen togeather in one pofture or other
 “ ever fince as I have before difcribed if ever
 “ man faw A fpirit, if ever man was haunted

Delusions

N

“ with

" with visions and in the power of Dæmons
 " sprites &c I am I have as great an opinion
 " of thy chastity and virtue has ever man had
 " of womans therefore dont think me a Jealous
 " pated fool but take pity of me and rescue
 " me out of their hands which if I find
 " you dont attempt doing I shall no more consider
 " it as delusion's of sights occasioned by
 " Dæmons sprites &c. but holy visions; consequently
 " true and on that presumption shall
 " resolve never more to have any thing to say
 " to thee was I certain you were not together
 " then should I be certain that what I see is
 " delusion and reason and time woud enable me
 " to get the better of it therefore I must and
 " do insift on it that from the time you receive
 " this letter you never suffer him to be alone
 " with you on Any pretence what ever * *
 " * * * * and that after this
 " months visit is paid you cease being so
 " excessively familiar with the Lee's which is
 " intirely in your own power nobody at Sidbury
 " but you desiring or liking such intimacy
 " why should you ever Lye there or he at
 " Sidbury unless forced to it by weather or
 " some unforeseen accident or at least often
 " than you do at Kinlet Ashbury and other
 " places By A Journey to Lincoln Bristol Cheltenham
 " or here (where I shall be excessively
 " glad to see you either with or without your
 " brother

“ brother and promise you on my honour I will
 “ behave to you in all things as you shall by
 “ letter direct me) break it of and before the
 “ month is out if possibly you can do it with
 “ ease and without promise of returning there
 “ again to finish it and for God sake never re-
 “ new it again never mind the expence of A
 “ Journey for with the greatest pleasure I will
 “ repay it for rather than to be tormented thus
 “ eternally I would part with every shilling I
 “ am worth in y^e world—I give great credit
 “ to every thing you say therefore your telling
 “ me very minutely how you pass your time
 “ at Coton * * * * * w^{od} I fancy en-
 “ able me the better to Cope wth. the Dæmon
 “ but I must insist on it y^t. in all you conde-
 “ send to tell me you tell me y^e. truth be-
 “ cause on y^t. my present and perhaps future
 “ happiness if men live after death intirely
 “ depends for should your words banish him at
 “ present or enable me with tollerable ease to
 “ bear the vision yet if afterwards I find y^m
 “ false possibly he may then return again &
 “ quite overcome me even tho you should then
 “ assist me to y^e utmost of your power. For-
 “ give me my Dear for being thus troublesome
 “ consider me as I really am possessed with y^e
 “ Devil have pity on me and endeavour by
 “ truth only to restore A man that Dotes on
 “ thee I love thee to distraction and thee only

“ as you can cease to be mine when you please
 “ to ask it assure me you will ask it or at least
 “ let me know as soon as you determine to be
 “ mine no more and that till then thou wilt
 “ be true virtuous and chaste as I am sure thou
 “ art notwithstanding dreams and visions for
 “ God sake take care of thy health and let me
 “ have A true acco^t of it and consider that
 “ you will in A very severe manner to Ac-
 “ countable to him that gave you life and
 “ Health if you neglect the necessary means of
 “ preserving them Let not my misfortune
 “ trouble thee in y^e least I have been better
 “ within these Six hours I do not always see
 “ y^e Vision I have short intervals I trust y^e in
 “ time with thy assistance twill wear of A Dieu
 “ My Dearest thine Eternally.”

This idle Attempt, to work upon my Fears,
 by the Vision, lest his Senses should have been
 disordered, was too gross, calculated only to
 confound, and make me forget to urge his
 Promise. His Words were no longer of any
 Credit, would those have proved his Affecti-
 ons, I could never have complained; but his
 Actions, on all Occasions, proved exactly the
 Reverse. It was reasonable to think, by Part
 of this Letter, that he wished my Marriage
 with Mr. *Lee*, therefore, giving Hints, that
 such a Request would be granted; thence
 came

came a necessary Conclusion, that no Claim was intended; but this was Guess only, I revealed nothing, and wrote a short, but positive Answer——“ I just now received Miss
 “ your frightful Letter. I fate up till Three ^{Scrope to}
 “ in the Morning to answer your long one—^{Mr. Cress-}
 “ Mine was eight Sides, and went by Way of ^{well.}
 “ London—Own me publickly for your Wife,
 “ and I am ready and willing to go over the
 “ World with you.” * * * * *

Answer to my long Letter, and my last.

“ My Dear Dear Betty y^e longing desire of Mr. Cress-
 “ my eyes soul of my soul and end of all my ^{well to}
 “ wishes this moment wth Joy w^{od} I lose An ^{Miss}
 “ Eye leg or Arm to be blessed for one single ^{Scrope.}
 “ Hour with thy Dear company to endeavour
 “ to set myself right in thy esteem w^{ch}. by
 “ writing I dispair of seeing you so prodigi-
 “ ously mistook my last it was happy for me I
 “ reced your short letter by y^e Cross post on
 “ Wednesday otherwise —— well of all
 “ crimes charge me not with want of love y^e
 “ letter every thing I do & say or ever shall
 “ will be all proofs to the contrary nay of A
 “ Love y^e most benevolent and disinterested I
 “ had almost said god like & more than hu-
 “ manenature is capable of A Love thro w^{ch}.
 “ I cod wth. pleasure die to purchase your hap-
 “ piness when you thro death and by your
 “ own

“ own damnation have had thoughts of mak-
 “ ing me infinitely miserable and unhappy
 “ good God how thy Judgment is preverted
 “ to think y^t in one man generosity w^{ch}. was
 “ absolutely the most ungenerous behaviour
 “ possible & occasioned thro fear & Cowardice
 “ & what in me is y^e utmost Generosity and
 “ Heroism baseness & facewood well Betty
 “ when ever you do marry thro’ Pike
 “ passion or revenge you will then be most in-
 “ fallibly and certainly convinced of the Vio-
 “ lence of my Love——I had not wrote to
 “ you as I did had you not bewailed your con-
 “ dition as y^e most unhappy w^t then could I
 “ say to A person whose happiness I infinitely
 “ preferred to my own but make yourself so
 “ if you can & regard not me tho’ I should
 “ be miserable I have time but for A short
 “ Letter w^{ch}. I am glad of for I am so unfortu-
 “ nate in my long ones that I shall never at-
 “ tempt them any more——Be Honest Betty
 “ & keep your contracts inviolable for y^t is the
 “ essence of vertue & Religion—had men al-
 “ ways done so neither they nor Laws had ever
 “ had A name the sole end of all w^{ch}. are only
 “ to make men do so ; what your contract
 “ with me was I dare say you remember
 “ tho’ by your letter one w^{od} think you did
 “ not if you tell me in your next y^t you have
 “ forgot I will remind you what it was and
 “ consider

“ consider y^t ours was y^e most sacred ^b and so-
 “ lemn one y^t people can enter into I did not
 “ marry this woman because I was ashamed to
 “ refuse doing so to Lord Ducie but because
 “ she had y^e Qualifications you desired my wife
 “ should have Viz^t. money enough for all three
 “ and so ugly as to secure you from y^e danger
 “ of Loosing my affections you know I did not
 “ propose being happy ^c with her and she is of
 “ such A temper that neither I nor any other
 “ man could and had I not been ingaged to you
 “ I should not have married such A Lump of
 “ Deformity, foolishness and illnature twas
 “ money only that I thought necessary to my
 “ happiness no other woman but you of whose
 “ intire possession I then thought myself as se-

^b Narr. P. 76. “ And being invited by her, &c. made
 “ me then do it, on the ridiculous Terms I before men-
 “ tioned, which, I verily believe, were not designed to be
 “ kept by either Party. I am sure they were not by me.”
 Would a Man under such a vitious, as well as foolish
 Agreement with a Woman, thus, without Reason, run into
 Self-Condernation? Sacred and solemn, if used with any
 Meaning at all, cannot belong to such a loose Contract.

^c Narr. P. 77. “ When I married Miss *Warnford*, I
 “ loved her as well as I loved your Sister, &c. and deter-
 “ mined to make her a good Husband.” My Enemies will
 be puzzled how to reconcile these Accounts; and thereby
 save Mr. *Cresswell*’s Credit. Mr. *Lee*’s Observation (p.)
 on this and other Parts of his Letters, relating to my Con-
 sent, is here verified. The Accusations in those to terrify
 me, in the *Narrative* to clear himself; both equally false,
 and ineffectual for the designed End.

“ cure

“ cure as of my own and thy life * * *
 “ * * * * * (you gave me
 “ back again y^t leave I gave you to marry
 “ another ^d laughed at and wou^d not accept it)
 “ then you loved me * * * * *
 “ * * * * * thank
 “ God it is pretty well over I have nothing of
 “ it now but after sneezing or suddenly turn-
 “ ing about neither will you give me any par-
 “ ticular of your Health or what you design
 “ doing with yourself I mean at present wea-
 “ ther you go to Lincoln or what tho I desire
 “ it ever so ardently I say still y^t it was owing
 “ to your behaviour with Lee that both our
 “ present uneasyness. are for if I did behave
 “ foolishly ^e at Coton y^t could only affect y^e
 “ people there of whose good opinion I dare
 “ say you think yourself certain. my beha-
 “ viour was nothing more than common and I
 “ am sure I have seen such twenty times since
 “ for I cannot live out of Company therefore
 “ have not been without three days in y^e whole
 “ five weeks since I left you & there has not
 “ been A man ever at this place twice that has
 “ not on my neglecting to name or call for A
 “ Toast proposd one himself and surely none
 “ so proper for An officer to drink as y^e kings

^d P. 59, “ With this (the *Shropshire* Estate) you may marry, &c.

^e See Note x. p. 78.

“ on his Inauguration day and I say still you
 “ have no right to dispose of yourself without
 “ my consent for A Contract between two can-
 “ not Justly be broke by one when they think
 “ proper tis true I promised I w^od give it
 “ whenever you asked for it perhaps thinking
 “ you never w^od you never yet have and as
 “ you have neglected y^e opportunity perhaps
 “ I shall not give it now I never will unless
 “ you earnestly desire it and have great pro-
 “ spect of happiness and then I will if it kills
 “ me but never for you to marry in revenge
 “ to me” * * * * *

* * * * *

* * * * * “ good god can A man for
 “ the Happiness of A woman part with what
 “ he value more y^t Heath weath and liberty
 “ and yet not love her. this I can tell you as A
 “ truth I have experienced y^t if you Love one
 “ man you never can be happy with another
 “ nor make him happy” * * * * *

* * * * *

I lost all Patience ; his Accusations almost crazed me : They brought to my Mind an Expression of his, when last at *Sidbury*, “ That “ he could make such a plausible Story to the “ World, as would not be easy for me to dis- “ prove.” I thought Part of this Letter the plausible Story, which was to frighten me into Silence. The Time for his Promise was expired, and not one of the four Letters mentioned it. I repented letting my Brother go to *Pinkney*, who now would have been a great Comfort to me ^f. I told Mr. *Lee* the Particulars of my Marriage, and Mr. *Cresswell*’s Promise, but desired him not to expect a Sight of the Letters, which could not be shewn. He was very uneasy, and I promised, if the next was not satisfactory, to read them, omitting only Parts that were of no Consequence. He was satisfied, and said, “ I fancy *Cresswell*

^f *Narr.* P. 55. “ Satisfied me that she would marry “ Mr. *Lee*, if she could, and had sent you out of the Way, “ that you might be no Hindrance to her, &c.” It is true, Mr. *Cresswell* had incensed my Brother against Mr. *Lee*; but when he was gone, my Brother wished the Match, and spoke to Mr. *Lee*. I encouraged his going to *Pinkney*, for the Reason given, p. 78 ; and Mr. *Cresswell* engaged *Fred.* at the same Time. *Carr* too would have been there, had his Ship gone to *Bristol*, as was expected : See the next Letter. “ *Carr* will be here, &c.” All this was done to make me believe he really designed to own me, but would first tell it to my Brothers.

“ really

“ really believes you listen to my Addressees.
 “ Is there any Thing to this Purpose in his
 “ Letters? If there is, by no Means unde-
 “ ceive him. Demand an immediate Publi-
 “ cation, or Release.”——This was very rea-
 “ sonable, and I wrote——“ That it was not to Miss
 “ promote my Happiness, but Misery, that ^{Scrope to}
 “ you married this Woman, to have prevented ^{Mr. Cress-}
 “ which I would have died. That, indeed, ^{well.}
 “ after the Marriage, my Intention was not to
 “ ruin you, nor would I now, on Account
 “ of the poor Woman and Child. That I
 “ would never marry again, because I thought
 “ religiously it would be wrong; not through
 “ Love for you, which is lessened. You say
 “ it was happy for you, that you received my
 “ short Letter, or—yet you give me no Rea-
 “ son to think, or hope, you will do as I de-
 “ sire. You have my Affection still, and it
 “ is in your Power to make me happy, by
 “ owning me; but if you refuse this, for
 “ God’s Sake resign me, and suffer my Hap-
 “ piness with another.”

Before this reached *Pinkney*, came the fol-
lowing.

“ Dear Betty I sincerely ask thy pardon for Mr. Cress-
 “ all y^e uneasiness’s I have created thee as like- ^{well to}
 “ wise for all y^e wrongs I ever did thee & as ^{Miss} ^{Scrope.}

“ I have A sincere purpose of never offending
 “ in like manner again I trust y^r God will
 “ forgive me whether you do or not thò it
 “ w^{od} be great Joy to me was I assured you
 “ did ; I never defined giving thee any un-
 “ easiness but by my marrying^s wth. I truly
 “ confess I did believe w^{od} give thee a great
 “ deal of all other’s I can acquit myself—It
 “ is very easy to find A stick to beat A dog
 “ wth. else you w^{od} never on pretence of my
 “ not Loving thee taken occasion of Declaring
 “ of wth. me. if you do not Love me well
 “ enough to Leave thy Friends relations and
 “ country^h for me surely my being ready to
 “ do it for thee is no sign of my not Loving
 “ thee” * * * * *

* * * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * *

^s Narr. P. 35. “ Why then does she, with such Con-
 “ fidence, say, that she knew nothing of my being to be
 “ married.” I should be grievously sorry, could I not say
 this with Confidence ; and if I could not, how was I of-
 fended ? What Uneasiness had she created me ? What
 Wrong had he ever done me ? If I consented, Why does
 he not acquit himself of this likewise ?

^h Narr. P. 41. “ I wrote to your Sister, and engaged
 “ her to go and live abroad, &c. P. 50. If she would
 “ go with me to *France*, &c. to which she seemingly con-
 “ sented, &c. These Passages declare that I agreed to go.
 Why then, in this Letter, does he allow that I refused to
 leave my Country, &c. ?

* * *

* * * * *

* * * * * “ Carr will here and if
 “ thou canst have no Joy in my company
 “ surely that of all thy Brothers will afford
 “ thee some” * * * * *

* * * * *

* * * * *

* * * * *

* * * * *

* * * * *

* * * * * “ My wifes settlement
 “ is made & will be executed at Burford Races
 “ I have received some more of her money
 “ w^{ch}. I have paid Away and am promised as
 “ much more at Miha’. as will enable me to
 “ pay of Mrs. *Wareford* w^{ch}. if paid there will
 “ remain due to me L750 w^{ch}. I owe at Bristol
 “ God Blefs thee” * * * * *

* * * * *

“ August y^e 30th. Date thy Letter” * * *

According to my Promise, I red the Letters
 over to Mr. *Lee*, who seemed, in general, sa-
 tisfied with all but that Part of the fourth,
 charging me with having consented to the
 second Match. He urged me, very earnestly,
 to confess whether that Accusation was just,
 on the Truth, or Falsity, of which alone,
 depended my Guilt or Innocence ; if true,
 said he, “ The most prudent Way is Si-
 “ lence and Repentance ; if false, fear not
 “ his hurting you by such an absurd Lie.
 “ Ad-

“ Admitting it true, you both joined to pil-
 “ lage and ruin an innocent Woman ; if it is
 “ not, (and so I really believe, not from your
 “ Word only, but comparing that Charge with
 “ other Parts of his own Letters, wherein he
 “ owns, having injured you by his second
 “ Marriage, really no Injury at all had you
 “ consented) yet it is very natural, to suppose,
 “ a Villain capable of charging you falsely
 “ with Crimes, which, believed, would in-
 “ fallibly take off the Validity of your Evi-
 “ dence in the Eye of the World, and that
 “ alone can clearly discover all his Wickedness.
 “ But it is very difficult to suppose a Case,
 “ wherein a wicked Man, and an Enemy,
 “ would, free and uncompelled, ask Pardon
 “ for Injuries of the deepest Nature, which
 “ the other really had not suffered from him.
 “ I rather think he means to fright you, by
 “ shewing you the black Story he intends
 “ to spread. Don’t be afraid, when your
 “ Wrongs are published, his Scheme will be
 “ to clear himself, not blacken you, and that
 “ End will not be answered by this Charge.
 “ Depend on it, if a publick Defence is
 “ necessary, he will not be so great a Fool
 “ to invent a Lie of no Service to his own
 “ Character. Upon Reflection, he will see,
 “ that this, if really true, would stain himself
 “ much deeper than you ; for all Mankind

“ will be sure the Husband, in such Conspi-
 “ racy, must be the Tempter, consequently
 “ most guilty. No, No, there will be a
 “ Story made to extenuate his own Crimes,
 “ perhaps disagreeing with this Charge; should
 “ that happen, do you think the reasonable
 “ Part of Mankind would believe either on
 “ his Word only? By his Letters it is plain he
 “ wants you as a Mistress, not as a Wife; that
 “ is, he thinks it more prudent to part with
 “ your Reputation than his own. If you will
 “ not comply on these Terms, he had rather
 “ you married me, so you will find upon
 “ Trial. Press him positively to own, or
 “ quit you, and, if the latter, say you will
 “ marry me.” I did write so, complaining
 bitterly, and shewing a determined Resolution
 to know his Intentions: If to claim me, I
 would make as good a Wife as, through Duty,
 I ought: If otherwise, I would see him no
 more, but marry Mr. Lee. After a very con-
 siderable Time this Answer came.

“ Dear Betty you must excuse my not sooner
 “ determining an affair of the highest conse-
 “ quence to me My son will have no title to
 “ Bibury estate but by being Heir at Law to
 “ his G: Father Bastards cannot inherit
 “ therefore if I attempt to make him one his
 “ G: Mother to vindicate his rights will pro-
 “ secute

Mr. Cress-
 well to
 Miss
 Scrope.

“ secute me for marrying her daughter having
 “ another wife A live w^{ch}. is felony & I must
 “ deny it & you to on Oath or I shall be con-
 “ demned if not hanged no woman y^r. did nay
 “ y^r. ever pretended to Love A man could with
 “ any face attempt to draw him into such A
 “ scrape there are instances of first wives y^r.
 “ have Loved their husbands even thò^t they
 “ had injured y^m so far as to marry another
 “ without their privacy or consent y^r. have
 “ denyed their marriage even on Oath but
 “ none that ever pretended to Love wod vo-
 “ luntarely proclaim their marriage tho some
 “ thrò revenge or hopes of widow hood have
 “ done it but neither they or any else ever
 “ thought that they Loved their husbands
 “ ——— when terms are offered y^r. are im-
 “ possible or impracticable they are ever e-
 “ steemed as none I shall therefore so esteem
 “ yours & give you as you desire it for Gods
 “ sake and to prevent your utter ruin leave to
 “ do as you please & do hereby quite you of
 “ all promises obligations & contracts what-
 “ ever being desirous only to hold you by
 “ Love & if y^r. fails——If you marry Lee
 “ I shall only remark y^r. people are very
 “ unfortunate in choosing their own motto’s
 “ y^r. they commonly choose what they most
 “ esteem or desire to be rather than what they
 “ are y^r. Lee is y^r only man besides myself y^r
 “ ever

“ ever in earnest addressed you & y^t you in-
 “ couraged him more than commonly women
 “ do and that on y^e first time of his proposing
 “ marrying of you my constant Betty became
 “ so no more for when you put it as you called
 “ it tho’ nobody thought you did when I was
 “ in *Shropshire* you did not believe he designed
 “ marrying of you tho’ I then conjectured by
 “ his insisting on your not putting of the
 “ month visit and your ready & determined
 “ compliance notwithstanding every thing I
 “ could do to prevent it & on your not remov-
 “ ing from sidbury what it w^{od} come to w^{ch}.
 “ has ever since & perhaps may as long as I
 “ live give me great uneasiness had you
 “ determined to be just to me you w^{od} have
 “ came hither or accepted your sisters invita-
 “ tion bad as it was it was an invitation——
 “ no part of my behaviours for these two last
 “ years deserved this usage if you have been
 “ unhappy charge it not to me God & you
 “ both know y^t in every other action of my
 “ life except marrying another woman I have
 “ endeavoured to make you happy w^{ch}. I dont
 “ believe you will be by the change if provi-
 “ dence w^{od} give me now exactly such ano-
 “ ther Girl as yourself in rags without family
 “ friends or relations I should esteem myself
 “ the happiest of men and doubt not but that
 “ she w^{od} be so of Women much happier

" I believe than Mrs. Lee will be if thou art
 " she w^{ch}. I can hardly yet believe thou wilt so
 " hard is it to have A bad opinion of those
 " one once thought y^e most deserving this I tell
 " thee if dost not marry him thou wilt if
 " possible be infinitely more deserving in my
 " eyes than ever thou wert and I shall dedicate
 " the remaining part of my life intirely to make
 " thee happy & shall henceforward w^{ch}. I never
 " did before esteem myself A man of Art and
 " that what you do will be as I w^{od} have it
 " for God Damn me eternally if I w^{od} have
 " thee marry any other man than myself tho
 " to purchase your happiness at the expence of
 " my own misery I have consented to it Betty
 " had I told thee that the sight of thee made
 " me unhappy" * * * * *

* * * * *

" that I had infinitely rather die than live with
 " thee and even if all the world dispised me
 " rather than live with thee in affluence and
 " plenty and you to be infinitely fond of me
 " I would hide myself in obscurity and want
 " from thy most diligent shearth what w^{od}
 " you have said to me I know had you loved
 " me as well as ever you did you w^{od} have
 " told you never have seen me more instead of
 " w^{ch}. I only desired you to do those things
 " you thought most condusive to your own
 " happiness without consideration of me for

“ that I preferred yours to my own w^{ch}. you
 “ have wrongfully interpreted to my not Lov-
 “ ing you at A time that I was preparing and
 “ doing all things that w^{od} have evinced the
 “ most violent Love told My Lord Ducie my
 “ unhappinefs at home he pittied me adviced
 “ me to talk with her mother y^t if on that she
 “ did not alter to part with her w^{ch}. as I know
 “ she will not. I shall do and defined not
 “ to have seen thee for some time thinking
 “ thou wert the constant creature you was ever
 “ willing I should & w^{ch}. now I shall prove
 “ then to have made my addressees to thee &
 “ to have married thee if thou wert willing
 “ not fearing on thy part any prosecutions and
 “ immediately to have gone abroad to know
 “ what y^e world w^{od} say of us w^{ch}. I know
 “ & you to w^{od} be then more favourable in
 “ their censures than were we to proclaim we
 “ were married before I married her you call
 “ on me to vindicate your character w^{ch}. I
 “ will do by not telling immediately you are
 “ my wife and then living with you nothing
 “ can make you so odious all y^e world will
 “ dispise you for it and will say that as you
 “ consented to my marrying another woman¹
 “ you should have kept y^t an eternal secret

¹ Compare this with Note g, p. 100. and with another
 Part of this same Letter. “ God and you both know that
 “ in every, &c.”

“ since it could answer no other end than to
 “ make yourself infinitely more odious and the
 “ making other innocent people vastly unhappy
 “ but living with me as A second wife being
 “ neither contrary to y^e Laws of God or of
 “ most nations had you behaved well you w^od
 “ have been tolerably well respected and e-
 “ steemed as all people in the same circumstances
 “ ever have been you w^od have been excused
 “ on the score of Love & ten thousand other
 “ things but on the other nothing can be said
 “ by way of vindication what ever you deter-
 “ mine pray let me know and if you proceed
 “ with Lee tell me how it goes on y^e I may be
 “ prepared to receive my Doom before it
 “ comes if Love ceases let friendship subsist

* * * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * *

“ The Duchess of Beauford is now A Dying
 “ of her fourth Child or Labour I hate my
 “ wife because thro her I lost thee and when in
 “ bed the other night I gave her A Kick
 * * * * * She told me she was
 “ breeding but what signifies that to thee who
 “ I believe are determined to have no more to
 “ say to me^k.

^k See the Conversation before he left *Sidbury*, p. 73, 74.

Here was at last an absolute Refusal, which he had hitherto carefully avoided, keeping me in Suspence, by frequent Promises. This was satisfactory, in a great Measure, freeing me from future Importunities. His repeated Charge of my consenting to the second Match gave me no Uneasiness : The Postscript only gave me Pain. Very soon after the Marriage, I ceased to look upon Miss *Warnford* as a Rival, and pitied her greatly. His Confession of having kicked her, though breeding, and the Hint that her being with Child would be no Signification to me, recalled to Mind his Dream, and Threat how he would act, if this should ever happen. I communicated my Fears to Mr. *Lee*, and desired his Advice. He bid me not be uneasy, for though it was plain, the slightest Encouragement from me would determine the Fate of that poor Woman ; yet it was not in the least probable, as Things were now, that he would attempt an Act, which, if executed, would put him entirely in my Power, since, in that Case, my Evidence would undoubtedly convict him. “ Besides, added he, you see, by the Release, he looks upon you as absolutely lost ; and notwithstanding his affected Concern, I think, wishes you to marry me, in which Opinion it is most safe he should remain, that making it still more impracticable to gain you. It is plain

“ too,

“ too, by the artful Repetition of your pre-
 “ tended Consent, that he would terrify you
 “ into Silence. As Mr. *Cresswell* has given
 “ this foolish Release, I will directly go to
 “ consult your Brothers, (who are still at
 “ *Pinkney*) and Mrs. *Warnford*. The Know-
 “ ledge of it can concern none¹ else. Your
 “ Brothers will take Care of you, Mrs. *Warn-*
 “ *ford* of her Daughter, and *Cresswell* tolera-
 “ bly well satisfied that his Villany is not ex-
 “ posed to the World, will let you both hence-
 “ forward live in Peace. As to the Pretence
 “ of your Marriage with me, they will pre-
 “ sently see it was to draw a peremptory An-
 “ swer from him ; yet thus much I must de-
 “ mand, that you permit me to continue my
 “ Addresses, and marry me if I out-live Mr.
 “ *Cresswell*.” I said, “ I shall always esteem
 “ you the best of Friends, but will enter into
 “ no Engagement at so great an Uncertainty ;
 “ it may happen, at his Death, that a single

¹ By what Method could Mr. *Cresswell*'s best Friend
 have served him more effectually ? His Fortune would
 have been quite safe, and his Reputation hurt in the
 Opinion of but few. I think, after the dreadful Plot this
 Wretch had laid, his most sanguine Hope could not have
 flattered him with an End so little prejudicial. Mr. *Lee*, in
 this Design, proved himself a Friend to every one con-
 cerned ; and had not Mr. *Cresswell*'s very bad Head, and
 much worse Heart, led him into farther Mischiefs, it had
 succeeded.

“ Life

“ Life will be agreeable, which, certainly, af-
 “ ter ſuch Misfortunes, will be moſt prudent ;
 “ but, if at that Time, my Opinion ſhould
 “ change, you will undoubtedly be my Choice,
 “ though I deſired him not to think this any
 “ Engagement on his Side (for his Circum-
 “ ſtances required Money with a Wife) but to
 “ forget me, and ſettle his Affections with
 “ more Prudence.” This Advice only moved
 a Smile. It was ſome Time before I wrote
 again, ſtaying till Mr. *Lee* was ready to follow
 my Letter.—Thanks for reſigning me, Rail-
 lery at his Accuſation, and a Declaration that
 I would now marry Mr. *Lee*, were the Contents
 of mine.—Monſtrous Crimes are ſeldom
 permitted to be long ſecreted from the World :
 The wicked Man, through Weakneſs, often
 betrays himſelf. So it fared with Mr. *Creſ-
 well*, before mine reached *Pinkney*, he ſent me
 the following.

“ Dear Betty Tho you wont write to me I Mr. *Creſſ-*
 “ ſhall once more trouble you with A Letter ^{*well*} to
 “ thinking it My Duty ſo to do The Jews by ^{Mifs} *Scrope*,
 “ the laws of God delivered to them by Moſes
 “ were allowed more Wives than one and had
 “ likewise A Liberty of Divorcing them when
 “ they thought proper laſt night reading our
 “ Saviours ſermon on y^e Mount recorded by
 “ S^t. Mathew I found the following Law layed
 “ down

“ down to Christians w^{ch}. had I sooner known
 “ I should sooner have informed you of and
 “ were I certain it w^{od} Always escape your
 “ observation possibly I should not now show
 “ it but I think it better for you to consider it
 “ now than later—32 Verse 5 Chapter I say
 “ unto you whosoever shall put Away his wife
 “ except for Lying with Another man and she
 “ marry again both she and the man she mar-
 “ ries he knowing of her former marriage
 “ commit adultery this is y^e plain meaning
 “ thò not the exact words of y^e Law w^{ch}. I ad-
 “ vice you to consider of” * * * * *

* * * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * * “ you cannot say
 “ of me as of others that A constant train of
 “ illusage has at last overcome your love for I
 “ never used you ill but once & since y^t time
 “ we have been as good friends ^m as ever for
 “ surely my endeavouring to make you breake

^m How will my Enemies reconcile these frequent Confes-
 sions, of having injured me with his *Narrative*? Will they
 think it natural for a Man to use such submissive Acknow-
 ledgments to a Fellow-Criminal? As to the pretended
 Friendship, after his Marriage, it was intirely Constraint
 on my Side, even when I thought he intended to own me.
 See my Account, p. from 65 to 72.

“ with

“ with Lee and keep to me cant be called
 “ illufage neither can any temptation of for-
 “ tune make you flight me you have been my
 “ fole Heir in all y^r wills I have made for
 “ thefe ten years and whilst I lived you were
 “ fure of commanding all I had you willfully
 “ mifinterpreted what I faid concerning a gueff-
 “ ing at the happinefs of others you ever pre-
 “ tended you could be happy with me in any
 “ manner but feared making others unhappy
 “ I always told you you could but guefs at
 “ that that I did not believe it w^od make your
 “ relations unhappy for A week but if it did
 “ you ought to prefer your own to theirs that
 “ as for My Wife & her family it w^od be
 “ equal to y^m for if I had not you I fhould
 “ have another * * * * * were
 “ you that righteous virtuous Girl you w^od ever
 “ have had me have thought you might poffi-
 “ bly have refolved on continence w^{ch}. if you
 “ did I allways promifed you you fhould be
 “ miftrefs of Sidbury Eftate in the whole or
 “ part as you pleafed but that I am afraid is
 “ not one of your favourite virtues Befly if
 “ thou does determine to marry Lee and can
 “ bear the fight of me without much uneafi-
 “ nefs I defire thou wilt for old Loves fake
 “ contrive that I may be with alone for A Day
 “ or two * * * * *
 * * * * *

“ Ifancy fuch an intercourse will make my part-
 “ ing with thee eafier to me you may contrive
 “ it by having Baylifs Stock feized &c w^{ch}. at
 “ all events I defire thou wilt have done now
 “ harveft is over unlefs he keeps touch to his
 “ promife with me and if you will not fee me
 “ dont do it till after Micha^s. becaufe Granny
 “ will lofe half A years rent if you do but Jn^o.
 “ to have A Strict eye on him but if thou wilt
 “ fee me do it when it is moft convenient for
 “ that purpofe and regard not the half years
 “ rent but let me know fome time before hand
 “ Adieu yours fincerely.

“ Pray write to me and if thou wilt fee me
 “ let no Lees male or female be with thee at
 “ *Sidbury*.

I never faw a Man more enraged than Mr.
Lee, at the Sight of this Letter, and indeed
 with great Reason; for though Mr. *Creffwell*,
 on all Occafions, has denied an Intention of in-
 juring, or affronting him, yet furely all who con-
 fider the latter Part of it will think, he attempts
 as great an Injury, as one Man can receive from
 another. Mr. *Lee*, really, knew me to be Mrs.
Creffwell, but Mr. *Creffwell* thought him de-
 ceived; and, with as much Wifdom, as Inte-
 grity, was drawing him into a Marriage, which,
 he was morally fure, muft make him exquisitely
 wretched, fhould my real State ever be dif-
 covered.

covered. And to crown his Designs, after the Marriage, he was prepared for this Discovery, by that *generous* Offer of going afterwards Nar.p.50. Abroad with me. The Reader may observe, this *seventh* Letter is within two Months after Nar.p.63. he left *Sidbury* by the Charge, “ Don’t do it “ till after *Micha^s*.” It was about the fourteenth of *September*, so that for the Sake of his coming only, my Grandmother must have lost between *l. 20* and *l. 30*. Mr. *Lee* now resolved not to go, till the Receipt of another Letter, which soon came, in Answer to my last.

* * * * * Mr. *Cress*
* * * * * well to
* * * * * Miss
* * * * * *Scrope*.

* * * * *
* * * * *
* * * * * “ if you will
“ contrive to let me spend two or three days
“ with you alone before you marry I will return
“ you your hair and will if you require it
“ then satisfy you I always wished you well
“ w^{ch}. if I did not now do I should not desire
“ to see you for tis for your sake that I desire
“ it infinitely more than for my own and I will
“ behave towards you as I promised in my last
“ but whether you will see me or not pray
“ seize *Balifs*’s Stock if he has not kept his
“ promise with me I fancy you may contrive

“ to see me without giving the least disgust
 “ to Lee the friendship I proposd to you I
 “ meant to be strictly virtuous and from the
 “ time you marry Lee I will never use the
 “ least freedom even if I should have oppertu-
 “ nity w^{ch}. I dare say I shall not as for the Box
 “ I will not have it but you have A plain Gold
 “ ring ⁿ of mine that Mrs Lee cant claim any
 “ title to I will have that and for y^e money you
 “ may do as you please you are wellcome to
 “ keep it or return it as you please let me
 “ hear from you constantly till you are married
 “ then I fancy our correspondance will drop
 “ tho’ you tell my excuse for not writing
 “ sooner to you was groundless your Ladyship
 “ is mistaken by god it was true for for three
 “ days & nights I was determind publicly
 “ to own every thing^o and had I bin thorough-
 “ ly satisfied that it wod have been agreeable
 “ to you I fancy now I should but the confi-
 “ deration that it was no grace of yours but A
 “ thing that then was, now is, and will con-
 “ tinue to be in my power to do, when I

^a The Wedding-Ring, which he brought me the Morn-
 ing before he went to the *Commons* for a Licence. See
 p. 38.

^o What was this every Thing he was in such a Doubt
 about owning? Is it most probable, that it was his own
Narrative or my *Account*?

“ please

“ please ^p made me delay doing it for the
 “ present yours.”

This Threat destroyed the Scheme of going to *Pinkney*, convincing us, no private End could be made; for if Mr. *Cresswell* really was the Philosopher's Afs for ever so short a Time, ^{Nar.p.50.} he might be so for a longer, and consequently never be resolute enough to choose either Bundle. In *October* Mr. *Lee* went to examine the *Fleet* Registers, for a Proof of the Marriage, concealing his Journey from every Body but me, lest Mr. *Cresswell*, hearing of it, might thence conclude him acquainted with the whole. He insisted upon my writing a very submissive Answer, full of mild Reproaches for his former Illusage, and present Desire of seeing me. This was very distasteful; but being only a

^p *Nar.* p. 16. “ She prevailed with me to read over
 “ with her the Marriage Ceremony, &c. I took Care to
 “ know where every single Person belonging to the Family
 “ were before I ventured at it, &c.” It is not likely, that
 it was in his Power to prove this Marriage; for, as he
 declares so frequently, he did not design it as such, no one can
 suppose he would have trusted any Servant. Therefore, is
 not this a strong Confirmation of the Truth of our Mar-
 riage in the *Fleet*? Else, what does he mean by saying,
 he could prove it when he pleased? He must know the
 Marriage at *Pinkney* impossible to be proved; but he might
 believe it easy to prove the *Fleet* Marriage, being certain
 where the Woman was to be found, and perhaps not then
 knowing the Death of the Clergyman.

Copier

Copier it was somewhat easier. There was, from this Letter, very strong Reasons for him to believe me desirous of his coming: He really did believe it; and, supposing me fond of the Scheme, sent this indifferent Answer.

Mr. Cress-
well to
Miss
Scrope.

“ Dr. Cousin I Reced your letter last night
“ tis A Month since I last wrote to you I will
“ return you your hair next time I see you
“ tho’ according to Strit Justice I ought not
“ if my keeping of it woud give you any
“ uneasiness for you have purposedly in your
“ whole proceedings with Lee gave me as
“ much as you could, you could not have
“ parted with me without giving me A great
“ Deal but why by your manner of doing of
“ it you should increase it is to me most unac-
“ countable your conversation with me has
“ been Strictly virtuous ^a on your side for no
“ Nation or people on earth ever thought A
“ wifes compliance with her husband Sinfull
“ but for yours with Lee if you Are A Chris-

^a I cannot help reminding my Enemies, that this Letter came after Mr. Cresswell believed me resolved to marry Mr. Lee; therefore, what Reason can be given for such an Assertion as this, had our Engagement been an infamous Bargain, as described by the *Narrative*? Let them reconcile too, if they can, his Sincerity with his confessed Untenderness, and find out some other Meaning in his *one Instance*, besides his Marriage with Miss Warnford.

“ tian

“ tian twill be adultery according to Chrif’s
 “ own words recorded both by S^t. Mathew
 “ and S^t. Mark to w^{ch}. you have added per-
 “ jury why do you call me unsincere I never
 “ was so to you you allways knew my thoughts
 “ as truly as god or myself but you have been
 “ as unsincere to me as it is possible woman
 “ can be to man as to my being untender tis
 “ true enough yet excepting one instance I have
 “ been as tender to you as possible in short
 “ Betty religion and virtue are on the side of
 “ your continuing faithfull to me but they are
 “ two weak to combate Love and inclination
 “ I heartily forgive you being the only person
 “ injured and on your repentance for it if it is
 “ sincere w^{ch}. possibly some time or another it
 “ may be God will if you apprehend any great
 “ inconvenience in My Seeing you dont let
 “ me for at any time I w^{od} prefer your satis-
 “ faction to mine but on the contrary I do
 “ really believe it w^{od} be the better for you as
 “ long as you live doth fear my endeavouring
 “ to put of the Match for that I could do
 “ without your consent (why should I stay
 “ from Sidbury) or my doing any thing to
 “ give Lee A mean or bad opinion I w^{od}
 “ sooner hang myself I dont remember any
 “ threat I made you in my last Adieu.
 “ yours.”

The

The Day Mr. *Lee* fet out for *London* I wrote a very long Answer, chiefly relating to those Verses of our Saviour's Sermon. I undeceived him in Regard to my Marriage with Mr. *Lee* ; but protested, if he came to *Sidbury*, I would leave it, first telling the Reason. My Enemies, perhaps, will condemn this Deceit ; I had a double View in it : If he really loved, the Fear of losing me might influence him stronger than any Motive of Honour would have done. If he did not love, concluding me on the Point of Marriage, (in which my designed Husband was to be grossly and villainously cheated) and consequently not daring to expose him, he would write more openly. To encourage him farther, my Letters hitherto expressed great Fear of being discovered, and are couched in too gentle Terms, where Wrongs are mentioned, for which no Expressions could have been too strong, and, indeed, should have been repeated with Fury. Particular Facts are likewise alleviated, as if I feared to exasperate him by the strongest Truths. This, however necessary, had been beyond my Patience ; but Mr. *Lee* wrote all for me after the fourth. These were, by far, the most favourable he ever received, and many Parts absolutely against my Opinion ; but they were calculated for no other End, but to make him less circumspect, in which they amply succeeded.

succeeded. Mr. *Lee* returned, after a Week's Absence, with what Information could be got in the *Fleet*, which he said was by no Means sufficient, and it would be proper for me to go to *London*. At the same Time he shewed a Memorandum of a Register he had seen in the *Fleet* of * * * * * some Years before my Marriage. Though trifling to him, being only taken to satisfy the Obstinacy of a drunken Fellow who owned the Book, to me it was of great Consequence, tending to clear a Part of Mr. *Cresswell's* former Conduct by no Means satisfactory * * * * *

* * * * *

I promised to go late in the Spring, not caring to leave my Grandmother alone in the cold Weather. Mr. *Cresswell's* next Letter is excessively abusive, much the same with the

R

Narrative,

Narrative, accusing me of a most infamous forward Behaviour before Marriage, and afterwards consenting to his Match with Miss *Warnford*. Particular Parts only of this and his other Letters will be mentioned. Probably this will be objected to ; but really nothing is omitted of any Consequence, but what is indecent, or speaks of other People in a most infamous Manner.

Mr. *Cresswell* to
Miss
Scrope.

“ Why wilt thou wilfully prevert and misunderstand every thing I say ? Is telling thee
“ I woud never see thee by surprise nay nor
“ without thy free consent threatening thee
“ this I did two or three Letters Ago In my
“ last I told thee I woud rather die than do any
“ thing to thy prejudice either in Lee’s or y^r
“ world opinion and y^r tho I infinitely desired
“ to see thee once more yet if you apprehended
“ the least inconvenience I woud wawe it ? is
“ this threatening thee I likewise told thee I
“ did not remember I ever had threatened thee
“ A plain Demonstration y^r I did not define
“ putting any threats in execution if ever I
“ used any w^{ch}. now I dont remember I ever
“ did ; If I did I am sorry for it nay very sorry
“ because you say it has terrified you take
“ courage My Wench dont mind my threats
“ for I cant prove our marriage & the Law
“ without proof is dead—By way of proving
“ your

“ your Religion & Virtue I proposd some
 “ things to your consideration w^{ch}. I was mor-
 “ rally sure woud not always escape your notice
 “ tho possibly now they might in y^e Hurry of
 “ Love & new desire & I thought it better
 “ for you to consider them now than hereafter
 “ if you have reconciled them I am satisfied
 “ we have not one foul whatever our flesh may
 “ be—How you injure Lee by seeing me un-
 “ less you tell him our whole affair is to me
 “ incomprehensible however you need not give
 “ yourself the trouble to kill yourself to pre-
 “ vent it for it is my firm believe I shall never
 “ see you more how my behaviour makes your
 “ important secret as you call it publick is like-
 “ wise incomprehensible tis true I am A Me-
 “ lancholly unhappy wretch more miserable yⁿ
 “ I ever yet knew any body w^{ch}. I cant help
 “ or hide = but nobody but you knows where-
 “ fore every body else thinks it proceeds from
 “ My wifes damnable temper and tho I have
 “ railed at women in General I never men-
 “ tioned your name but as an exception to y^e
 “ General rule Betty be wise keep your own
 “ secret nor of all people trust your friend
 “ Lee with it for it can answer no other
 “ than making you both unhappy By lessening
 “ his esteem for you &c &c pray how did my
 “ Cursed villany prevent your marrying y^r
 “ Dear man eight years Ago I am sure I did

“ not then Love you & should have been glad
 “ that he or any body else had taken you of
 “ my hands you gave him as much encourage-
 “ ment as woman could do & at first I did be-
 “ lieve you designed marrying of him yet
 “ wondered you had not spoke to me of it
 “ told you so & that you had my free consent
 “ you assured me you did not nor ever wou-
 “ that if you did not Love me yet you wou-
 “ marry him of all men y^t his hand feet &
 “ Shape exactly resembled A Large Baboon
 “ y^t if he was y^e last of men & you of women
 “ the Humane Race should fail & & and I
 “ believed you as firmly as I should have done
 “ my God had he spoken to me upon w^{ch}. be-
 “ lief to prevent any reproach from y^e world
 “ I wou- have had you broke of acquaintance
 “ with him but could not prevail for you went

“ Why should he wonder I had not spoke to him, or
 think it extraordinary that I encouraged Mr. *Lee*, if I
 really had done so ? Why did Mrs. *R*— and Mr. *M*— speak
 to my G. Mother ? Is it not plain, by Mr. *Cresswell*'s own
 Account, what were Mr. *Lee*'s Designs ? As to his Equivo-
 cation in the *Question*, *Narr.* p. 10. “ Why then does
 “ your Sister and Mr. *Lee* charge me, &c.” I never said,
 that I directly refused him ; I never had the Opportunity ;
 but indirectly I did by my shy Behaviour ; and so far his
 own Account proves. If I encouraged Mr. *Lee*, how could
 I persuade Mr. *Cresswell*, at the same Time, that I loved
 him, and only him ? If he would have been glad, that any
 one had then taken me off his Hands, why did he dissuade
 me against going to *Bridgenorth* ?

“ when

“ when ill in A violent rain & in A flood to
 “ Bridgenorth in expectation of seeing of him
 “ at his Mothers nor was it in mine or Grannys
 “ power to prevent you but he disappointed
 “ you and thro Levity left you as he has done
 “ severall since we paid him the last visit at
 “ Coton But if either your behaviour or mine
 “ prevented it y^e Villany is your’s since my
 “ behaviour was intirely owing to your insin-
 “ cerity & falsewood (as is my present misery
 “ & ever present twill be to me) for had you
 “ then told me your designed marrying him
 “ if you could with the utmost Joy I should
 “ then have done every thing in my power to
 “ have forwarded it & by yⁱ should have se-
 “ cured my own happinefs instead of w^{ch} with
 “ the utmost & to me as it has happened
 “ most pernicious falsewood & insincerity you
 “ perswaded me you loved me and only me
 “ and by it have made me most wretched as
 “ thro yⁱ & yⁱ only to prevent thy unhappi-
 “ ness * I married A woman I despised and
 “ hated not but that her behaviour woud have
 “ had the same effect on me if there had been
 “ no such person as thee in y^e world——by

* What a cruel, inhuman Insult ! Taking even his own
 Account, Could his Marriage be a Step to my Happiness ?
 However, this Assertion will but ill tally with the 77th
 Page of the *Narrative*, mentioned before in Note c, p.
 95, on the same Occasion.

“ your

“ your own confession y^t. you defined marry-
 “ ing of him when you were ill you practised
 “ the same insincerity and falsehood when I
 “ last saw you tho I then told you you had my
 “ free consent and y^t if he w^od not have you
 “ you should be still welcome to me I again
 “ believed you & left you with A perfect con-
 “ viction of your truth w^{ch}. behaviour of
 “ yours did for time absolutely deprive me of
 “ my reason when I first knew I was deceived
 “ and you w^od not by A Single innocent word
 “ attempt my cure—Pardon me My Dear Betty
 “ for this Harsh Language excess of Passion
 “ & misery drew it from me why must you
 “ in all your letters abuse & call me names
 “ & with illtimed & ill Judged Rallery laugh
 “ & sneer at me is it not enough that you have
 “ used me ill if I have done the same by you
 “ let us be quit & mutually forgive one ano-
 “ ther w^{ch}. I do you with tho you wont tell me
 “ you do me and not abuse one another yet
 “ more with Vile reproach My Dear Dear
 “ Betty for such thou wilt ever be to me I
 “ never will in any shape or manner injure
 “ thee more ^t but will most inviolably &
 “ strictly Keep secret thy most important secret
 “ do that likewise” * * * * *

‘ Is not this odd, that a Man should, for the Happiness
 of another, punish himself so dreadfully, and then ask
 Pardon, as if he had injured her ?

* * *

* * * * *

* * * * * “ happy are they at
 “ least in conscience whose Religion & Virtue
 “ makes those things they desire A Duty &
 “ nothing else let all laws say what they will
 “ Adieu let us have no more on this subject
 “ lay not my misery to your charge I forgive
 “ you thò you wont me——” * * * *

* * * * *

* * * “ Oh My God had I so behaved
 “ to you when I was about marrying this
 “ beast it woud have drove you mad as your
 “ usage I verily believe will me & I should
 “ think that woud give you no pleasure you
 “ seem to triumph in & sport yourself in My
 “ unhappyness and Misery no commiseration
 “ no kind word no pity instead of it eternal
 “ Abuse vile names & Slandorous Lyes &
 “ falsewood Oh Betty I have ten thousand dif-
 “ ferent feels for thee in A moment A strange
 “ mixture of Love esteem friendship passion
 “ &c. &c. Adieu my Dearest yours eternally.”

“ Since I finished my letter w^{ch}. I was pre-
 “ vented (By company) sending thee last post

“ I

“ I have found out what terrified thee for God
 “ of his infinite Mercy has in part restored me
 “ to my senses and I now have a just value
 “ and belief of your words & Oaths twas for
 “ fear I should claim thee & live with thee
 “ w^{ch}. if I did you w^{od} be very sorry (but
 “ dont fear it) I am sure and certain that you
 “ knew I w^{od} own our marriage if ever we
 “ lived together and you desired it and you
 “ knew that I desired never to part from you
 “ when I was last with you nor never should
 “ but at your desire I will tell you how I am
 “ sure of it to prevent your committing any
 “ willfull sin by endeavouring to impose upon
 “ me for twill not do I then proposed to you
 “ going abroad immediately your refused and
 “ said what before my G—— death we shall
 “ lose by it upon w^{ch}. I desisted and agreed to
 “ stay & wait first promised you I w^{od} own
 “ our marriage but desired you not to insist on
 “ it for that we should be more despised for it
 “ than by living together on any other terms
 “ you agreed that I was right I then proposed
 “ having whilst we were abroad all things in-
 “ spected frequently writing to our friends and
 “ then we should be certain what w^{od} be best
 “ for us you hated the thoughts of quitting
 “ England so agreed to stay here and Marry
 “ afresh now if you had not rather Marry Lee
 “ than live with on any terms as you knew
 “ you

“ you might do with me what you pleased
 “ you woud not in that disagreeable manner
 “ you have put me on owning you immedi-
 “ ately & staying here when the going abroad
 “ and owning you immediately you refused
 “ when I was in shropshire farewell.”

My Answer was almost ten Folio Pages, a Repetition is needless, that, and much more, being already mentioned in the Beginning of this Pamphlet ; but much milder, hoping still to gain more Letters. The following are two or three Extracts.

* * * * * Had you ^{Miss}
 behaved to me, when you married again, as I ^{Scrope to}
 now do to you, I had been happy ; since that ^{Mr. Creff-}
 would have set me free from you, unless you ^{well.}
 had claimed me : But this you durst not do,
 lest I should have declared our Marriage;
 which, though I could not have proved, my
 Character was such, that all would have be-
 lieved, and none else would have married you.
 Your whole Behaviour to me has been false
 and treacherous, and what an honest Man
 would be ashamed to own, much less endea-
 vour to excuse, by throwing Accusations against
 me. * * * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * * when, at Sidbury,
 you proposed my going Abroad, which, you
 S say,

say, I refused in Consideration of what we should lose by disobliging my Grandmother. I never gave that Reason, nor valued leaving *England*, only could not bear the Thoughts of the World, and if you would to my Brothers declare our Marriage, I was contented to go. But you acted in this, as in the rest, make me suffer every Thing, but not hurt yourself at all. I did not agree in your not owning me, but marrying again, for I always disliked it. I see you would throw all Crimes on me, though I am innocent. But I am perfectly indifferent now, despairing of ever being happy be whose I will * * * * *

Before the Receipt of mine he sent this.

Mr. Creff-
well to
Miss
Scrope.

“ My Dear

“ Pray excuse me for troubling thee
“ so soon with A this Letter I know not what I
“ do or say nor can I tell whether I have as-
“ sured thee I woud not “ Claim thee this is to
“ do it I possitively never will Adieu pray
“ write soon yours and let not the
“ thoughts of My Caiming thee terrifie thee
“ any more.”

Were I to say upon these Letters all my Inclination suggests, this Book would increase to

“ See a former Note p, p. 117. Is not this likewise a Confirmation of the *Fleet* Marriage ?

a Folio ; I hope the World will see the Accusations against me were invented only to work on my Fears. I hope they will consider too, how frequently these Accusations are contradicted in the same Letters. The very first Line of the next Letter directly confutes his Assertion in the last but one ; and in his publick *Evening-Post* Letter, that he did not prevent Mr. Lee's Addresses eight Years ago, though the Engagement really was not till the Time I have fixed.

“ Dear Betty we were ingaged By those Mr. *Cress-*
 “ words I will marry you several years before ^{well to} Miss
 “ you knew Lee or I believe ever heard of *Scrope*.
 “ him before you knew Lee you gave me
 “ Leave to marry Miss Earnly ” therefore as
 “ we were engaged I then thought & do now
 “ think you ought in Justice to have told me
 “ your define of marrying Another man as
 “ soon as you had formed it and I now assure
 “ you with the greatest truth if you had done
 “ so I should then have done every thing in
 “ my power to have forwarded it but you po-
 “ sitively assured me you never woud marry
 “ him of all men that Looking at him was
 “ painfull & disagreeable to you & that his
 “ touch was loathsome to you this you know
 “ to be true as likewise that I had proposed &

” See my Account, p. 21.

“ you had agreèd to My marrying another
 “ woman * * * * * the
 “ you declare y^e contrary but for end or pur-
 “ pose is beyond my comprehension God Bless
 “ thee and make thee as happy as I wish thee
 “ & then you will not complain for if happy-
 “ ness was in my power you should be your
 “ own Carver this is y^e last letter I will ever
 “ write to thee that you need fear showing any
 “ body were we intirely to leave of writing
 “ to one another I think it woud have an odd
 “ look but however Just as you please I doubt
 “ not finding another correspondent that will
 “ satisfie me of all things relating to Granny
 “ or you that I want to know for as to your-
 “ self except in your last letter you disdained
 “ giving me the least acco^t. * * * * *
 * * * * * pray tell me
 “ when you think you shall be marryed whe-
 “ ther you seized on Baylis’s Stock and how
 “ it is like to turn out whether Barker or any
 “ good tenant will take it at the old rent &
 “ when you think I may come to Sidbury
 “ without hurting you Adieu.”

A Letter or two more came from Mr. *Cress-
 well*, but were not answered. My Brothers
Scrope, and *Fred.* had been with him some
 Time, but were gone. During the Stay of
 the former, several Letters had passed between

and therefore obliged to submit to the Will of
 her imperious Husband * * * * *
 * * * * * By my G.
 Mother's Orders, I mentioned those Acknow-
 ledgments of Money, which you burnt, in
 my Letter to my Brother. I have now told
 her of your doing it ; to this, likewise, you
 have given a full Answer. I will inform you
 of nothing that passes here ; so that your Ig-
 norance may determine you to come down, or
 not, as you please. I am perfectly indiffe-
 rent to either. Matters between us are at such
 a Pitch, that very little is wanting for me to
 declare my Injuries to the World, and by seek-
 ing a just Redress for those many Wrongs I
 have so unjustly received ; that, at least in
 Appearance, I may not suffer, but be known
 publicly, though unwillingly, to be your
 most injured Wife.

This was enclosed in the following Letter to
Fred.

Dear *Fred.*

Miss

Scrope to
 Mr. Fred.
 Scrope.

The Post before I wrote to you, Mr. Lee
 wrote to my Brother Scrope * * * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * * you may justly call my Letter a
 Letter of Confusion, and such it must yet,
 but I hope not long, remain. Oh ! dear *Fred.*
 could

could you have seen what Confusion of Mind I have laboured under these last five Years, and I fear shall continue in, only proceeding from Excess of Villany in Mr. *Cresswell*, you would think me a Woman the most deserving Pity you ever heard of. I find, by his Letter to me, that he saw mine to you, and you saw his last to me. *Fred.* you dont know the Designs of that Villain. If you have never hitherto suspected me of Imprudence, how can you but judge me deeply injured, when I express myself so warmly ? I think he will not dare to shew to you what I have now wrote to him. If he does not, pray ask him, before he has an Opportunity of avoiding your Request, by saying, that, after reading, he burnt it. If you see it, consider carefully the Expressions, and try, by Discourse, how he can efface those Suspicions which my Words must give you

* * * * *

Very soon after my Brother *Fred.* came to *Sidbury*, and brought me two Letters from Mr. *Cresswell*. He did not own this before Mr. *Lee* ; but, after Supper, delivered them privately. One was of no Consequence ; to be shewn to my Grandmother or him. The other as follows.

“ Dear

Mr. Cress-
well to
Miss
Scrope.

“ Dear Betty I did not show your Brother
 “ your last letter But endeavoured to satisfe
 “ his curiosity By telling him that you and I
 “ were strongly ingaged to be married in
 “ Case my wife should die & that possibly
 “ some scruples on y^r. head might through
 “ lownest of Spirits and all ill habit of body
 “ might at present afflict you But y^r. I had re-
 “ leased you of all engagements to me in as
 “ full A manner as possible yet if you did not
 “ think so I was ready to any thing of that
 “ sort that you could desire but neither this
 “ nor any thing else y^r I could say to him on
 “ that head satisfied him therefore he deter-
 “ mined going for sidbury I proposed going
 “ with him but as he did approve of it I de-
 “ sisted but if my coming there will be either
 “ A pleasure or satisfaction to you let me know
 “ it and I will come immediately you knew I
 “ only meant yours when I talked about igno-
 “ rance of affairs for thang God I am not or
 “ ever was solicitous about trifles was it in my
 “ power to do any thing that woud contribute
 “ to your happiness it woud be the greatest Joy
 “ imaginably to me but as you have neither
 “ love friendship or opinion of my capacity
 “ of serving you in any shape I dont suppose
 “ y^r it is yet I believe y^r had you used constant
 “ regular exercise * * * * *
 “ that you woud have been much better both

“ in body & mind than you are at present
 “ for without supposing the latter disordered
 “ your behaviour is to me quite unaccountable
 “ did not you tell me that when you found
 “ your love for L increase that had you not
 “ been thoroughly satisfied you woud have put
 “ A stop to it what has happened since love I
 “ am sure has no hand in it Adieu pray take
 “ all ye care you can of your Health A return
 “ of w^{ch}. may perhaps bring A Calm sedate &
 “ determined mind yours affectionately”

I was just mad——here was a new scheme ;
 the Marriage quite dropt, and in its Place, an
 infamous Engagement. I carried the Letter
 directly to Mr. *Lee*, and my Brother *Carr*,
 (then at *Sidbury*) and left them. He red over
 Mr. *Cresswell*'s Letters, revealing all, except
 saying, in direct Terms, I was Mrs. *Cresswell*.
 This was done to prove the Falsity of the Let-
 ter *Fred.* brought——The first Time we were
 alone, Mr. *Lee* surprized me with a positive As-
 surance, that (from his Observation) *Cresswell*
 had told *Fred.* of our Marriage.——This I
 charged him with, earnest to know whether he
 saw my enclosed Letter ; he said, No ; and
 gave a minute Account of Mr. *Cresswell*'s Be-
 haviour on refusing to shew it. I was satisfied,
 and extremely offended, that Mr. *Lee* still per-
 sisted in his Suspicions. My Brothers went
 T away.

away. I now thought of nothing more than going to *London* in the Spring to enquire after my own * * * * * Marriage, therefore designed not to write again to Mr. *Cresswell*; but was obliged on the following Occasion.

He had left my Grandmother in *July* greatly in Debt, without any Money, and the Arrears upon her Jointure of between 4 and 500*l.* a Year, amounted to above 1000*l.* All was done by his Direction, and in *August* my Brother took with him the Account of her Affairs, but could get no Answer. The Bills were very considerable, and I was greatly puzzled how to act: Mr. *Lee* advised me to call upon the Tenants; I did, and with the Money paid some Bills, and retrenching the Expences in Housekeeping for a Time, did tolerably well. The Distress Mr. *Cresswell* had ordered, was taken a little after *Michaelmas*, and the Stock was nearly sufficient to keep on the Farm. Unfortunately a Tenant, who rented 105*l.* a Year, died about *Christmas*, and we were obliged to make a publick Sale of his Effects. My Grandmother could not set either of these Farms, nor had she Money enough to manage or repair them. She ordered me to apply to her Grandson for some; I did, but could get no Answer. The Reason for her Application to him was—Some Years before she had re-mitted

mitted to him at *London* 400*l.* to lay out in Salt Tallies for her ; but he, instead of buying these Tallies, or instead of returning the Money when they were sold out, kept it for his own Use, giving a Note, and promising Interest, which he never paid, always laughing when it was demanded. She used to be angry, and keeping the Note very carefully, protested the Principal and Interest should be paid, if she ever wanted it. When she was seized with the Palsy Stroke, he one Day went into her Closet (the Key being always in the Door) and brought this Note to me, desiring it might be burnt : I refused, and he, to my great Surprise, threw it into the Fire, saying, “ Perhaps now her Understanding is weak, “ she may be induced to make another Will ; “ if it should be so, there can be no Demand “ for this Money.” I thought it monstrously wicked, and said, “ If, on Recovery, she “ should ask for the Note, what can I say ?” He replied, “ Let me know, and I will send “ another Security for the same Sum : I would “ not deprive my Grandmother of it ; but she “ shant give it to any Body else.”——There was no one to speak to about it ; she was not capable of understanding any Complaint ; and, knowing him her Heir, I therefore said nothing, nor ever should, till they were wanted, and then, not before Application to him. Af-

ter twice writing, Mr. *Lee* advised me to tell her ; but added, laughing, “ Depend upon it, “ he will never part with a Farthing, or he “ would not have burnt the Note.” He spoke to her. She was prodigiously angry, and ordered me to write again ; but the Answers were all trifling.

Mr. *Cresswell* to Miss *Scrope*. “ was I disposed to call names I might “ with Justice apply to you some of those you “ have so liberally bestowed on me for the “ manner wherein you wrote to Fred. does not “ y^e Church tell us if any one now y^e know &c. “ let him declare it o’r for ever hereafter hold “ their tongue. was you & I only concerned “ possibly

“ Had I been present at Miss *Warnford*’s Marriage, he might very properly have applied this to me, or had they been asked in the Church, though I had been absent, it might have come to my Ears, and left me no Room for Doubt. If I knew all, Why, in his Letter, p. 87, does he bid me ask myself, “ Did I marry her ?” Or how could I be justified, if he and I had been the only People concerned ? Does he not own, that, in the private Marriage at *Pinkney*, he suspected my placing a Servant in the Closet ? And, does he not in the 18th Page of his *Narrative* allow, that I was shocked at his Friend’s Letter, and doubted his Sincerity ? If he had my free Consent to marry any other Woman, if I cheerfully accepted his Proposal, if I promoted his Match, and knew the Design and Time of his Marriage with Miss *Warnford*, why did he not bring us two acquainted ? (Such an Acquaintance would have justified Mrs. *Warnford* too) and to render himself yet more secure,

“ possibly you might be justified but you have
 “ no right to make other innocent people un-
 “ happy” * * * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * * “ then Betty tis
 “ either the laws of God ^z or Love that pre-
 “ vents thy doing of it if Love I must needs
 “ say you have An Odd way of showing of
 “ it never mortall suffered more in so short A
 “ time than I have done thrò thy affair with
 “ Lee w^{ch}. has been sport & diversion to you
 “ I needed not to have cautioned thee not
 “ much to mind y^e making others unhappy
 “ meaning thy brothers &^c for thou art least
 “ sollicitous about y^e happiness of others of
 “ any body at least thy behaviour in this affair
 “ w^{od} make me think so——” * * * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * *

secure, Why was he not asked in the Church ? Or, if that
 most wise Institution was thought improper, Why did he
 not entirely satisfy Mrs. and Miss *Warnford* by inviting me,
 (so near a Relation, almost as a Sister in their Eyes) to the
 Wedding ? My Grandmother would fain have sent Mrs.
Warnford a Letter, which she actually wrote for that Pur-
 pose ; but he would not permit her to send. One Reason
 of his Refusal I have given, p. 56. Another was, that an
 Intimacy between the Families would make his Refusal still
 more difficult.

^z Could Mr. *Cresswell* think, that the Laws of God had
 any Influence on his Miss *Scrope* ?

“ I

“ I am sure you woud not discourse alone with
 “ me and I desire to have no discourse with
 “ you in publick whilst you are in this hu-
 “ mour when your hand was in in telling
 “ Granny about the Notes I hope you told her
 “ whose scheme it was or have you left that
 “ for me to do and are yourself determined to
 “ deny it with Oaths that, that may if any
 “ thing can give me more exalted Ideas of
 “ your Religion & Virtue Capitals for Capi-
 “ tals say I : good for good, Evil for Evil
 “ &c. Betty I woud fain be well with you let
 “ your determinations be what they will once
 “ more talke with you alone before you make
 “ any discovery in short I woud if I could find
 “ out your designs and in your last letter as
 “ you profess sincerity deal so by me & tell me
 “ what they are I can hardly conceive them
 “ so Romantick and unjust as thro a false no-
 “ tion of Honour ^a you woud sacrifice the
 “ peace & happiness of innocent people do you
 “ want to see me only to tell Lee before my
 “ face & then marry him if he will have thee
 “ or hast thou really some little Hankerings of
 “ tenderness remaining for me and therefore A
 “ reconfilement woud not be disagreeable to
 “ thee prithee tell me truly thy define—” * * *

^a If he had really thought that I wanted to bully him
 out of Money, would he have said my Behaviour proceeded
 from any Notion of Honour ?

* * * * * " & fally
 " expected to hear of your being married w^{ch}.
 " I could ill have bourne for Lee's letter to
 " your brother & none for me make me con-
 " clude the thing done & that out of appear-
 " ance of tendernefs you refrained telling me
 " of it it gave me fuch A fhock as is in com-
 " prehenfible yet if the Acco^t. you gave me
 " of your feel when you heard certainly of
 " my being married ^b was true you may poffi-
 " bly conceive it the bitternefs of parting with
 " you has been once over with me Mr. Lee
 " and I are much obliged to you for giving us
 " fo much unneceffary trouble poffibly in the
 " next place your brothers & Relations may,
 " you feem lately to delight in Labour &
 " pain without end or purpofe unlefs to give
 " to all your friends the greateft uneafinefs to
 " them that you poffibly can do." * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * * " Adieu thine in
 " fuch A manner as by your future behaviour
 " you fhall appear to me to deferve prithe
 " let us fee one another and part once more

^b After fo many Years Preparation, fuch a fatisfactory
 determined Conſent, what Uneafinefs could I feel from his
 Marriage? Let my Enemies reconcile all this; I would not
 give myſelf ſo much Trouble.

“ friends do what thou wilt afterwards my
 “ behaviour to thee in private if you will
 “ ever again let me have that Honour &
 “ pleasure shall be intirely regulated by thee
 “ tell me what ; & that I do I wish thee hap-
 “ py as ardently as you yourself do Adieu.

My Answer.

January 31, 1746.

I should not have answered your trifling
 Letter, but for the Money of my Grandmo-
 ther's

* * * * *

Mr. *Cresswell*, I laugh at your Accusation, you
 know it to be a Lie. I red that Part of your
 Letter to my G: Mother, and Mr. *Lee*, and
 when my Brothers come, shall not fear doing
 so to them. A Conscioufness of Innocence
 supports me : I dread nothing ; every Truth
 you can speak will brighten me and blacken
 yourself.

* * * * *

Lewis's and *Bayliss's* Farms are both in our
 Hands, nor can either be fet. The former has
 not an Horfe or Beast on it, nor have we *l.* 50
 in the House to purchase any, or (should a
 Tenant offer) to put either in Repair, which
Bayliss's alone will cost *l.* 30 in doing

* * *

* * * * *

“ Dear Betty

“ I earnestly desire once more to see
 “ & to talk with thee alone none can take
 “ exceptions at it considering how long we
 “ have been apart how nearly we are allied &
 “ were ever deemed to be to each other how
 “ ever you may flatter yourself you never had
 “ A friend but me & such I mean ever to be
 “ and as I am more capable will give you
 “ better advice how to succeed in your schemes
 “ let y^m be what they will than any body you
 “ know can, pardon me for speaking thus
 “ arrogantly of myself tis what I think tho
 “ possibly you may not & let us part friends
 “ practice y^t Sincerity to me who to you have
 “ been sincerity itself y^t you profess had you
 “ always done it we should both have avoided
 “ number less uneasiness's we have both felt
 “ but it is in vain looking at what is past
 “ answer my Lre immediately tell me whether
 “ you will or will not see me on y^e terms of
 “ my last for my afflictions bear me down I
 “ cant at this place support myself under y^m
 “ therefore if you wont see me I will instantly
 “ go to London & try what company and
 “ amusements will do for me I woud not will-
 “ ingly be confined God Bless you & make

Mr. Creff-
 well to
 Miss
 Scrope.

U

“ you

“ you as happy as I wish you then you will
 “ have an occasion to repine I hope as often as
 “ Granny knows you hear from me you make
 “ proper compliments to her from me &
 “ yours &c.

My Answer.

This to your last Letter, trifling as that
 before. I will never see you, but on the
 Terms I have mentioned, and then not by
 Choice. You have been, and are, my most
 bitter Enemy * * * * *

* * * * * My G. Mother al-
 ways hears when you write, and has heard
 enough from me not to regard any of your
 Compliments. I shewed her that Paragraph
 in your last this Moment: (She is in my Room
 with Mr. Lee) Her Answer, “ I want Money,
 “ let him by Way of Compliment fend what
 “ he owes me.” * * * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * *

Soon after Mr. *Cresswell* wrote to his Grand-
 mother.

Honrd. Mad^m.

Mr. *Cress-*
well to his
 Grandmo-
 ther.

“ My Cousin B Scrope having men-
 “ tioned in A Ridiculous manner some thing
 “ concerning Notes for money that I formerly
 “ gave you & since burnt never letting me
 “ know

“ know y^t you wanted money I treated it with
 “ y^e Scorn I thought it deserved I knew not
 “ that Baylifs’s Farm was unlet or that Sid-
 “ bury Farm was in hand or y^t you had no
 “ money in the House till I received her last
 “ letter otherwise I should have returned A
 “ Serious answer——I have no money at pre-
 “ sent five days Ago I had not five pounds
 “ Tho’ Child is to pay me this Month the
 “ ballance due to me for the Timber what it
 “ will amount to cant say My Cousin B Scrope
 “ has all the papers relating to it & can easily
 “ Acco^t. with him what ever it is I will pay it
 “ in part ^c & if you will borrow as much
 “ more of Gittons as you want I will under-
 “ take to repay it & when I next see you give
 “ security for the remaining Sum w^h. I did
 “ define doing for the whole not at all dream-
 “ ing y^t you at present wanted money —^d

“ The true History of the destruction of
 “ y^e Notes is as follow’s when My Cousin and
 “ I met at Sidbury occasioned by your first
 “ Attack of the Palsy in the little Parlour one
 “ night discoursing on your condition & the
 “ possibility of your being some time or other
 “ left alone without any of you G: Children

^c My Grandmother applied to him, and he said there
 was no Money due.

^d See my Account of this Matter, p. 138, 139.

“ with you & that you were not then in per-
 “ fect sound memory and understanding w^{ch}.
 “ the law suppose’s every one to be when they
 “ dispose of their affairs & we both knowing
 “ that you had then left me your Sole executor
 “ she voluntarily proposed giving me those
 “ Notes to do with as I thought proper I
 “ remember making this reply suppose My
 “ G: Mother should recover we will tell her
 “ of it Said she and satisfie her about it well
 “ enough (This I perfectly remember) tho’ I
 “ do not how the discourse was introduced but
 “ it was with no premeditated design of mine
 “ for then I should at this time remember it
 “ besides I could not design it since it could
 “ answer no end for had you or any one else at
 “ that time or since put those Notes in Suit I
 “ might have pleaded the Statute of limita-
 “ tion and refused Paying of them & had you
 “ never recovered you understanding & any
 “ one had taken advantage of your then Situ-
 “ ation to have prevailed with you to make
 “ another disposition of your affairs none ever
 “ woud have blamed me for so refusing But as
 “ she proposed it & meant it as A Favour to
 “ me I accepted it as such and I am sure there
 “ was no Evil designed by either of us this
 “ I likewise perfectly remember y^e when she
 “ brought y^e Notes & I desired her to Burn
 “ them She refused it My wife & Child are
 “ well

“ well we all Join in Proper Compliments to
 “ you and all with you I am

Hon^{red}: Mad^m.

Your most Dutyfull & obedient
 G Son Tho'. Est:court Cresswell

The same Post brought another to me.

“ D^r. Cousin

“ Was it well done of you after hav-^{Mr. Cress-}
 ing Kept me quit ignorant of all my G: ^{well to}
 Mother's affairs to charge me with A Design ^{Miss}
 of Distressing of her I thought Bayliss's farm ^{Scrope.}
 had been tenanted having A great while
 Ago desired you to Let it for what you could
 get, was it wisely done of you to suffer the
 whole stock to be sold before you had let it
 or even before you were in expectation of so
 doing——how is y^e land to be plowed &
 fowd Sow Clover with all the Corn you sow
 this spring either there or Sidbury——”

“ I did not know that you had no
 money in the House or that Sidbury Farm
 was in hand If you could have kept young
 Jn^o Lewiss you should have done it almost
 on any terms he is A young fellow of sub-
 stance great understanding in his profession
 very diligent & sober such as he are not
 very day to be met with (who is to be Bayly)
 The Idle & ridiculous manner in w^{ch}. you
 always mentioned to me y^e affair of the

“ Notes

“ Notes made me dispise it and take no notice
 “ of it thinking then of seeing my G Mother
 “ in A little time & satisfieing her about it but
 “ as I shall not see her this spring I have wrote
 “ to her this Post about it & and have told
 “ her the true state of y^e Case w^{ch}. I am cer-
 “ tain of because your voluntary proposal to
 “ Steal y^m and after you had done so your
 “ refusal of Burning of y^m Struck me instantly
 “ and made A Strong impressiion in My
 “ memory as likewise did your answer to my
 “ saying suppose My G: Mother should re-
 “ cover & miss y^m——I am now on the
 “ recovery but have been extreemly ill my
 “ Fabricks never had such A Shock before at
 “ least I think so” * * * * *

* * * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * * I am Dr. Cousin

very much yours

My Grandmother ordered me to write the following Answer to Mr. *Cresswell*, which she signed.

Mrs. *Cresswell* G. “ I am sorry the Manner in which your
 M. to Mr. “ Cousin *B. Scrope* mentioned the Notes ap-
Cresswell. “ peared so ridiculous to you. To me it
 “ seemed serious ; such I was when I ordered
 “ her to write, and when I directed her what
 “ to

“ to write. Suppose neither of the Farms
 “ were in Hand, or that I did not want Mo-
 “ ney, was that a Reason why you should re-
 “ fuse paying the Debt you owe me? The
 “ Quality I wish in you, towards me, is Ho-
 “ nesty, not Compassion.

“ Before you can confirm the Truth of the
 “ History, as you call it, it will be necessary
 “ to shew me, what Reason you can possibly
 “ give, that I should suspect my G. Daughter’s
 “ Veracity, whose constant Care convinces me
 “ daily of her great Love towards me. I now
 “ know why you always took such Pains to
 “ make her less delightful in my Eyes, in
 “ which you, when with me, by your Cun-
 “ ning, too often succeeded. At length un-
 “ deceived, I place in her my whole Confi-
 “ dence. I am convinced, that every Tittle
 “ you mention, relating to that Affair, is false,
 “ and invented by you, to palliate a most dis-
 “ honest and ungrateful Action. I saw your
 “ vile and abusive Letter to her, in which you
 “ most unjustly charge her with a Design, of
 “ which none but a Knave would accuse her,
 “ or a Fool suppose her guilty. Your Affairs
 “ at *Pinkney*, are a sufficient Employment,
 “ without your intermeddling here, where you
 “ neither have any Concerns at present, nor
 “ shall have, during my Life. I have revoked
 “ the Will once made in your Favour, and

“ have made Miss *Scrope* my sole Executrix ;
 “ a small Return, indeed, for the Trouble and
 “ Uneasiness she has received in my Family.
 “ I am positively determined to make you pay
 “ all the Money you are indebted to me,
 “ which is very considerable ; what I have not
 “ immediate Occasion for my G. Daughter
 “ shall have. Your Desire for me to apply to
 “ *Tho. Child* and *Ditton*, is only a trifling De-
 “ lay. Your Threat of having it in your
 “ Power to plead the Statute, clearly shews,
 “ how difficult it will be for me to get Re-
 “ drefs. I doubt this, and some other Things,
 “ of which I can now only guess, will, if
 “ made publick, turn but little to yours and
 “ your Family’s Credit, or Peace. I have no
 “ Friend but L—d *Ducie* to consult, which I
 “ will positively do, unless you give me a
 “ Bond for, or directly pay in, what Sums of
 “ Money you have at different Times received,
 “ most of which, though not all, I can re-
 “ member. To this I expect a full satisfactory
 “ Answer by the Return of the Post: If I
 “ should receive none, or a trifling one, like
 “ your last, Miss *Scrope* shall immediately
 “ write to my Nephew. You can no longer
 “ deceive your much injured and afflicted G.
 “ Mother.”

M. Cresswell.

This

This Letter had no more Success than any of the rest. It was plain he thought of nothing less than paying the Money—My Grandmother did not immediately write to L—d D—e, but waited till I should see him in Town.

The following Letter from Mr. *Cresswell*, came to me about this Time, but being undated, I cannot, to a Day, fix the Post ^e.

“ Betty w^{ch}. way am I thy enemy or ever was ^{Mr. Cress-}
 “ so since my present confinement I have wrote ^{well to}
 “ A true state of our case as it appears to me ^{Miss}
 “ in w^{ch} I cannot discover either y^e Villain y^e ^{Scrope.}
 “ enemy, or y^e Goat, I shall not send it you
 “ unless you desire it I like not your retailing
 “ Paragraphs of my letters to Lee to whom
 “ you durst not refuse showing y^e whole was
 “ he to ask, (as you have told me three months
 “ Ago) what am I not to expect from A man
 “ y^t you have ever represented me to me as
 “ extreamly Jealous & of great & insatiable
 “ curiosity your behaviour in this affair not
 “ being to be accounted for by any one uni-
 “ form Rule, your certainty of his becoming
 “ instantly y^e friend & being no longer y^e
 “ lover your saying y^t my coming w^{od} preju-
 “ dice you in his opinion, particularly if he

^e I think, before this Time, Mr. *Cresswell* had seen my Brother *Fred.* in Town.

X.

“ happened

“ happened to be absent, w^{ch}. is to me unac-
 “ countable if he knows no more than he ought
 “ & severall other things to long to mention
 “ makes me some times fancy what at other
 “ times I think y^t you have neither folly or
 “ wickedness great enought to have done, for
 “ if you have done it, you have done it vo-
 “ luntarely & have broke thro the most solemn
 “ contracts y^t is it possible for one, to enter
 “ into & have made yourself miserable &
 “ will be y^e Cause of the misery of severall
 “ other innocent people, you know not what
 “ virtue or vice are I will tell you once more
 “ it is that, that tends most to y^e happiness or
 “ misery of Mankind of w^{ch}. your Judgment
 “ and nothing else is to determine and by that
 “ if you Act you are safe else what is virtue
 “ here and in me woud be virtue all over y^e
 “ world & in every man than w^{ch}. nothing is
 “ more false for what is virtue here may be &
 “ is vice in another place & y^e Contrary nay
 “ even in England what may be virtue in me
 “ may in another man be vice & y^e Contrary
 “ &c.

“ All y^e people here y^t think about me &c.
 “ wonder I do not go to see My G: Mother so
 “ must every body in Shropshire even Lee him-
 “ self then how can my coming if he was either
 “ absent or present prejudice you in his opinion
 “ if you behaved as you ought to do as his
 “ bethroed

“ bethroed wife & my near relation &c. sup-
 “ posing him to know no more than he ought
 “ to do. I did not threaten you with coming
 “ but humbly asked leave to do it thinking
 “ my coming woud be of service to you thò I
 “ expected it to have been very disagreeable
 “ to myself I knew by your writing &c. you
 “ were very uneasy I fancy’d & strongly be-
 “ lieved y^t if ever you had any, all your love
 “ for me was over y^t scruples of conscience
 “ prevented your doing what you thought
 “ woud make you happy (not that I believe it
 “ will not woud my death had it now happened
 “ thò at first it woud have gave you infinite
 “ Joy neither woud y^e death of another y^t you
 “ once (I fancyed) thought stood in your way
 “ to happinefs & ever have you so for 12
 “ Successive Months) that as you might more
 “ freely open your mind to me than any one
 “ else I might more effectually than any other
 “ have wrought y^e removal of y^m and that I
 “ cod do it sooner by Conversing than writing
 “ this was y^e whole of my Scheme in seeing of
 “ you. for if I have so lost my horse y^t I am
 “ never more to have any service from him
 “ yet if ever I had valued y^e beast I had rather
 “ he fell into good hands than bad one’s I
 “ might had I found that truly to be y^e Case
 “ have told you that our Contract being nei-
 “ ther agreeable to y^e laws of the land or of

“ Jesus Christ was it to be tryed by either w^od
 “ be void it’s self &c. &c. &c. &c. and if any
 “ thing else had been y^e Case with that truth
 “ and friendship I so sincerely tendered you I
 “ should have done every thing becoming A
 “ Man to have removed it but as you do Sin-
 “ cerely hate & dispise me & Sport & make
 “ merry at my misery thò it is occasioned
 “ purely by my Love pity & commiseration
 “ for you I shall endeavour to bring myself to
 “ that way of thinking as not to concern my-
 “ self at all with any good or evil that may
 “ happen to you satisfieing my conscience
 “ with the reflection of having done my Duty
 “ thò I shall never bring myself to that degree
 “ of wickedness y^t you are arrived at to divert
 “ myself with other peoples unhappyness had
 “ you permitted me to have seen you” * *
 * * * * *
 * * * * *
 * * * “ I w^od not have touched your hand
 “ or kissed your lips had I perceived it y^e least
 “ disagreable to you Adieu.”

This was the last from him, till my Arrival
 in Town. No Notice being taken of my
 Grandmother’s Letter, and she in great Distress
 for Money, Mr. *Lee* advised her to consult
 with the Man who had before purchased Tim-
 ber of her G. Son, whether there was some
 Cordwood

Cordwood then ready. He said there was some, which should have been fallen five or six Years before ; with which, and more of a proper Growth, about 50*l.* might be raised, without any Detriment to the Heir. My Grandmother immediately ordered it to be cut. Mr. *Lee* was no more concerned, than through extreme Caution, sending his own Steward to look over what was designed for Sale, lest any Damage should be done. Nay, I very well remember, there was some Debate, whether a small Coppice of Ash should be fallen or not ; and, that it remained uncut, was entirely owing to him, whose Observation upon it was this. “ I think *Cresswell* as great a Villain as “ ever lived : He has injured his Grandmo- “ ther very much, by not paying the Money ; “ yet, I will not consent that she hurts him in “ this Manner. The Coppice, in Dispute, *Nar. p. 56.* “ will, in a few Years, be of much greater “ Value ; and, at this Time, it will be a tri- “ fling Addition to the Fall.” Mr. *Cresswell*’s (*Narr. p. 56*, says) “ Felling and cutting “ down Cordwood, that was not fit to be cut “ down.”——*Tho. Childs* picked out, fell, and bought all that was fallen. I think Mr. *Lee* saw it not ; the Money was paid Months after to Mr. *Cresswell*. If this Wood was unfit to be cut, *Tho. Childs* was to blame ; he could not be deceived, being by Profession a
Timber-

Timber-Merchant, and a very skilful one :
Therefore, if Mr. *Cresswell*'s Accufation is
true, he is a Knave ; and if he was fo, Is it
probable that Mr. *Cresswell* would, after this,
have left all his Affairs, in *Shropshire*, under
the Management of this Man ? But he has
done fo, fet him a Farm of 100*l.* a Year, and
made him Steward and Receiver of his Rents.
In a Word, Mr. *Cresswell* knows this whole
Charge to be false, fo does his Steward, and
every Tenant upon the Estate.

1746. I went to *London* in *March* : Mr. *Lee* fet out
a few Days before, and found Mr. *Cresswell* in
Town, who

The Design of my Journey was to find out
how far it was

or in the Power
of either of us to prove my Marriage.

* * * * *

Mr. *Cresswell's* being in Town prevented my Examination of the *Fleet* Registers, as he would consequently be acquainted with our Designs.

I applied to L—d D—e about my Grand- 1747. *Ducie*
 mother's Debt, who returned this Answer;
 " I will not concern myself about any Dis-
 " putes between Grandmother and Grandson ;
 " but if there is any Thing between him and
 " you, wherein I can be of Service, I am
 " very ready."—This with constant pressing
 from * * * and all Mr. *Cresswell's* Friends,
 for a direct Marriage with Mr. *Lee*, alarmed
 me greatly—Why, thought I, should they
 be so earnest in this Matter? The supposed
 Courtship has not been above half an Year,
 and the Character, * * * * told me,
 she had heard of Mr. *Lee*, from his Neigh-
 bours in the Country, was amazingly good.
 No Part of my Behaviour, at any Time of
 my Life, ought to have made her anxious in
 Regard to my future Carriage ; why then this
 Eagerness, in People, towards an Affair, that
 could be of no Consequence to them (except

on Mr. *Cresswell's* Account) but, supposing me inclined to marry, required the utmost Consideration on my own Part? And in which, the Approbation too of my Brothers, was, in some Measure, necessary. On these Reflections arose a Suspicion, that Mr. *Cresswell* had told L—D— some infamous Lies, and he the same to * * * * * which made her so solicitous about the Match. In good Truth, Mr. *Lee* had many excellent Friends upon this Occasion, ready to settle a Wife upon him, because they thought it the only Method of patching up her Reputation. Good God! does the Generality of the World act upon Principles of Justice? Or, do they esteem that only to be wrong, which is publickly so? How many People, knowing my Marriage with Mr. *Cresswell*, and without Suspicion of a * * * * * yet pressed my Marriage with Mr. *Lee*? Will the same People now believing the * * * * * give the same Opinions?—No.—Why?—Because, all Things concealed, their Opinions too would have been private; that is, they might have been Knaves as privately in this almost as in their own Thoughts. This did not fit my Opinion of Justice. Could my Happiness have come independent of Truth; Interest, Ease, and Pleasure, were on the Side of my receiving Mr. *Lee*: These, backed by my
Fears

Lord Ducie

Fears of being difesteemed, through any Lies Mr. *Cresswell* might spread upon his Villany being revealed. All my Relations consenting, most of my Acquaintance pressing, Mr. *Lee* too, to whom I was prodigiously obliged, and for whom I had the highest Regard, perpetually entreating my Consent, but upon a stronger Probability of the Equitableness of his Request. Nothing but a Fear of its being wrong against all this strong, very strong Temptation. What Reason could the Miss *Scrope* of the *Narrative* have for her Refusal? Or, is there the least Probability, that such a Miss *Scrope* would have refused any Thing that Interest, joined with Pleasure, offered her? Let my Enemies declare the Motive of my Refusal; I dare trust to their Judgment, when their Judgment must pass in the publick Face of the World. One Day, their Eagerness hurried my Temper beyond its usual Reserve, and in my Heat I said so much, that, on repeating it to Mr. *Lee*, he advised me by all Means to tell L—D—the Whole. Accordingly, I desired the Favour of his Company at my Lodgings the next Morning. He came, and the following Conversation passed.—L. D. “ I

“ am sorry there is any Dispute between Mr.

“ *Cresswell* and Miss *Scrope*; if I can reconcile them, I will—Mr. L. My L—, it is in

“ your Power to prevent all being made pub-

Y

“ lick,

Lord Duncannon

“ lick, if you please. The State of Affairs is
 “ this.—When I first courted Miss *Scrope*,
 “ near ten Years ago, *Cresswell* engaged her,
 “ but forced her by many Arguments to be
 “ silent. Some Years after he married her,
 “ but still obliged her to Secrecy.—L. D.
 “ What, did he marry her?—Mr. L. Yes,
 “ he did, in the *Fleet*, in 1742.—L. D.
 “ Then he is mad; and, considering his Fa-
 “ mily, we must not be surprized.—Mr. L.
 “ He made her let him court several Women,
 “ in order to make their Marriage less sus-
 “ pected; with all whom he still found Pre-
 “ tences to break off. Thus he deceived her
 “ into his Marriage with Miss *Warnford*; and,
 “ on his Return home, he endeavoured to
 “ pacify her, but to no Purpose: Finding
 “ that ineffectual, he threatned to deny his
 “ Marriage, if she dared to own it, and de-
 “ clare her his Mistress, for she could no Way
 “ prove it; but, if she would be silent, and
 “ not disturb him, he would give her *Sidbury*
 “ Estate, which was kept open, and an An-
 “ nuity of 100 *l.* a Year, till he could, by the
 “ Grandmother’s Death, put her in Possession.
 “ She told him she would be silent, on Con-
 “ dition he would never give her any Disturb-
 “ ance. When it was past Remedy, she was
 “ silent through Fear, not knowing how to
 “ prove her own Marriage.—L. D. She did
 “ very

“ very right^z: But how can she prove it now?
 “ ——Mr. L. By my Care——as soon as she
 “ told me, I corresponded with *Cresswell*, in
 “ her Name, and he, in his Answers, has
 “ confessed the whole Affair —— L. D.
 “ Then he is a Fool——Mr. L. All Knaves
 “ are Fools^h. Now, my L—, you have
 “ heard this Affair; what do you think of it?
 “ ——L. D. I suppose what you drive at
 “ is a Sum of Money.—Mr. L. No, my
 “ L——, if he would give her a Million, it
 “ would not be Satisfaction. —— L. D.
 “ What then? Would you take *Sidbury* Estate
 “ from him?——Mr. L. Yes, my L——;
 “ ⁱ those were his own Terms, and no
 “ other will be accepted.——L. D. Well,
 “ I am sorry for these Misfortunes; I will
 “ speak to *Cresswell*, hear his Story, and see
 “ you again To-morrow——Mr. L. It is
 “ not possible for you to conceive the Villany
 “ of that Man: This second Marriage is his
 “ smallest Crime: I have great Reason to

^z What did he mean by the Word Right?

^h I do not remember that he agreed with Mr. *Lee* in this Particular.

ⁱ This was the Method in which the *Sidbury* Estate was mentioned, only as a Proposal of his own, and never spoke of, but with the other Particulars of his Villany. I dreaded the Offer of a Sum of Money from L— D—’s Hint, and therefore, ever after, kept steady to these Terms, which I was very certain would be refused.

“ think him capable of Murder. I do not
 “ speak against my Enemy, because I hate
 “ him; all my Expressions are simply Extracts
 “ out of his own Letters. My L—, he is
 “ the blackest of Villains: From his own
 “ Confessions I know, that he made Proposals
 “ of Murder^k to this unfortunate abused Wo-
 “ man.—L. D. She has been abused,
 “ indeed. They are both equally related to
 “ me, and I will judge between them both
 “ impartially; but must, indeed, lean to her
 “ Side, thinking her deeply injured.”—He
 left us, and came again the next Day, and this
 Conversation passed.—“ L. D. I have been
 “ with *Cresswell*, and find he is a very great
 “ Villain. I am sorry you must suffer, but
 “ will take Care Miss *Warnford* shall not be
 “ injured. This, perhaps, may be brought
 “ before the Legislature; if it is, I will use all
 “ my Interest to get an * * * * to
 “ confirm the second Match.—Mr. L. You
 “ talk idly, my L—, your Interest may go
 “ a great Way; Times are very bad, and
 “ therefore I dread every Thing from a ,
 “ but, thank God, they are not so bad, that
 “ the Legislature will confirm Things so di-
 “ rectly contrary to Reason. My L—, you
 “ talk, but you know you can’t do it.—L. D.
 “ I will concern myself no farther about this

^k See Mr. *Cresswell*’s Proposal, p. 41.

“ Affair. Your Servant.—Mr. L. Your
 “ Servant”——He left us.

Finding it impossible to end privately, we
 concluded it quite proper to acquaint Mrs.
Warnford with the whole Affair, except our
 Surmises about * * * * *

* * the Register of which I had not yet
 seen, that she might take Care of her Daugh-
 ter, whose Life I greatly feared, on Mr. *Cresswell*'s
 Return to *Pinkney*. When that was
 fixed, if known to us, we determined to write.
 I had no Expectation of receiving the Estate,
 only proposed it, knowing Mr. *Cresswell* would
 refuse; and there could be no Compromise,
 which, if there had been, would have made
 my Refusal, to my Friends, of marrying Mr.
Lee, very difficult. My Resolution was formed
 against Compliance; but my Desire was to
 evade a direct Refusal, and force Mr. *Cresswell*
 to make the Objection. The most safe Way
 was, I thought, to proceed cautiously, it be-
 ing probable, that farther Information concern-
 ing the * * * * *

* * * might conscientiously ¹ free me.
 Till

¹ It was this Consideration that made me easy in Mr.
Lee's Stay at *Sidbury*, from *November* to *February*. Before
 the former Month I received no Visits from Mr. *Lee*, nor
 paid any but to his Sisters. After that Time, he was con-
 stantly at *Sidbury*. This was by the express Desire of my
 Grandmother; nor was it in my Power, had it been my
 Inclination,

Till I was more certain, I did not give Mr. *Lee* the least Reason to guess I would consent, but positively declared the Reverse ; plainly seeing he was weak enough (I beg his Pardon for the Expression) to have ventured Marriage. His too ready Compliance, and this earnest Application of my Friends, made me insist upon his Silence, touching the Register. It was quite reasonable to conclude, that those who wished me to receive him, not knowing this, would admit no Refusal, could they urge such an Argument. Besides, Mr *Cresswell* would not have scrupled owning it, (which could not have hurt his Fortune) true or false, if my Marriage with Mr. *Lee* must have been the Consequence. I therefore yet went on the Grounds of *my own* Marriage, keeping to Terms which could not possibly admit a Compromise.

Mr. *Lee* was never in my Lodgings, at an unseasonable Hour, without my Brothers. He has come alone, or with Company, to Breakfast, and the same in the common Evening visiting Hours, from Seven till Ten ; at which Time I was ever at home to all my Acquaint-

Inclination, to have prevented it. But it was not my Inclination. The Register confirming what I before suspected of * * * * * acquitted me of any Crime in seeing Mr. *Lee*, who, being acquainted with my State, gave me great Assistance in my Letters to Mr. *Cresswell*.

ance. Which Lodgings Mr. *Cresswell* means, (if he really does mean any) when he says, *Nar. p. 78.* “ The indecent Manner in which they lived, “ &c.” I know not. My first Lodgings were at Mr. *Griffith*’s, a Linen-Draper, in *Coventry-Street, Piccadilly*, which I left, at the Desire of my Brothers, because they were too small. There, let my Enemies enquire into the Truth of our two Assertions.

One Morning Mr. *Cresswell* came, by Ap-*April.* pointment, with my Brother *Fred.* I heard them go into the Dining-Room, and sent for Mr. *Lee*, locking my Chamber-Door. *Fred.* desired to be admitted; I let him in, first knowing he was alone. He persuaded me to talk with Mr. *Cresswell*; I refused, but with Mr. *Lee*. He returned into the Dining-Room, and Mr. *Cresswell* coming to my Door, said, “ Pray, *Betty*, let me talk with you alone for “ five Minutes”——“ I will not,—you have “ abused me most vilely, and I will never see “ you alone.”——Mr. *Lee* came, stooped at my Chamber-Door, (he did not come in) and *Nar. p. 61.* desired me to follow him into the Dining-Room immediately. I could not directly, and Mr. *Cresswell* getting up to go, he said, “ If “ you will stay, Miss *Scrope* will come presently; she is just dressed.” He would not stay, but returned again at Eleven, Mr. *Lee*,
Fred.

Fred. and I in the Room. Coming in, he fixed his Eyes, with a very wild Look, on me, and, remaining silent near five Minutes, asked me, how I did? with so trembling a Voice, I could scarce understand him. I said, "Very indifferent."—*Mr. Lee.* "I suppose our Conference with L— D— was the Occasion of your coming here; it is now clear to you, that none of your Transactions, with *Miss Scrope*, are Secrets to me. You know the Proposals, and are to give an Answer, whether you will comply or no.—"
Mr. Cresswell. "I do, I spoke with L— D— Yesterday, Why did you speak to him, and not rather apply to me first?—*Mr. L.* I did not intend speaking to any Body yet, particularly to L— D—; but when convenient, should have spoke to you; *Miss Scrope* was, some Days ago, at the *R.....s's*, where she saw L— D—, and asked his Advice about the Note; had you settled that, this Affair had not been made publick so soon: He refused concerning himself about it; but offered, if he could be of Service in any Affairs between you two, he would do it with Pleasure. He and the *R.....s's* pressed her beyond her Temper, that she declared so much as to oblige me to tell the Whole. I condemned her for it; but they all pressed her so hard, that

Lord Dacre

Lord Dacre

" that she was very excusable.——Mr. C.
 " Yes; L— D— told me she declared so
 " much, that they were obliged to stop her
 " abruptly."—I said, " It is false, they asked
 " me almost every Thing I told, and condemned
 " me so strongly for not marrying Mr. *Lee* im-
 " mediately, that, in my own Justification, I
 " was forced to say what I did."—Mr. L. " I
 " dare say that is true, and it was your Fault,
 " not hers, that this was made so publick.
 " Why had you not given her a proper Re-
 " lease, when she first demanded it? Instead of
 " which, you sent her one of no Consequence,
 " and even that you prevented her making
 " any Use of. If you wished all should be se-
 " cret, why threaten her?——Mr. C. To
 " frighten her, and prevent her Marriage.—
 " Mr. L. Possibly you may suffer most from
 " these Threats. When I found you thus de-
 " termined upon distressing her, I undertook
 " the Correspondence, and wrote every Letter
 " since, all which are now by me, with your
 " Answers.——Mr. C. You have not acted
 " right.—Mr. L. Yes, I have for her, though
 " perhaps not for you.——Mr. C. When you
 " knew her Situation, you ought to have ap-
 " plied to me, and not acted as you have
 " done.——Mr. L. I verily believe you think
 " so; but I did not know how you would re-
 " ceive me, and thought it most prudent, be-

“ fore I made any Proposals, to get such Proof
 “ as would force an Acceptance of any Propo-
 “ fals.—Mr. C. That you have not now, for
 “ no Confessions of mine, in Letter, will sig-
 “ nify any Thing. If she, and I both, should,
 “ by Consent, own every Thing, it would not
 “ do. Do you consider what Evidence is re-
 “ quisite to prove Felony?—Mr. L. I do,
 “ and have as strong Proof as I can wish.—
 “ Mr. C. You are deceived, I hope you will
 “ consult the Brothers first.—Mr. L. You
 “ are very careful to remind me of these Things,
 “ and, rest assured, nothing shall be deficient.
 “ —Mr. C. Pray consult the Brothers, and, be-
 “ fore you proceed, take Dr. *Straban's* Opi-
 “ nion, he will tell you, that no Confessions
 “ of ours are of Consequence.—Mr. L. I
 “ know what Evidence is sufficient: Our Case
 “ is so directly plain, that such an Opinion
 “ will be needless; yet, on Consultation with
 “ the Brothers, what they desire will be done.
 “ This Discourse is of no Consequence. Will
 “ you comply in giving up to her the *Sdrop-*
 “ *shire* Estate, and signing a proper Release?
 “ If you will not, you shall be prosecuted.—
 “ Mr. C. I will not.—Mr. L. Then by G—d
 “ you shall be prosecuted. When I first
 “ courted Miss *Scrope*, I thought her single—
 “ You came down and broke off the Match.—
 “ I loved, and, on your leaving the Country,
 “ endea-

“endeavoured to renew the Courtship, and
 “still thought Success probable ; you have,
 “by declaring her your Wife, cut off all my
 “Hopes.—Mr. C. How did I break off the
 “Match ?—Mr. L. I suspected something by
 “your ungenerous Behaviour at *Coton*.—Mr.
 “C. I had no Intention of behaving ill, it
 “was far from my Thoughts.—Mr. L. It is
 “of no Consequence, whether you did or no.
 “The Intent of our Meeting is to know, whe-
 “ther you will comply, or not.—Mr. C. Sup-
 “pose I did comply, would that Estate make
 “her more free, or enable you to marry her ?
 “—Mr. L. No ; You have declared her to be
 “your Wife, I can have no Pretensions : But,
 “supposing you could release her, I should
 “expect that Estate, it being her own by the
 “Agreement you made after your last Mar-
 “riage ; and, even in Point of Interest, I
 “could not marry her safely, Part of my
 “Estate being entailed, to which no Child of
 “hers can inherit.—Mr. C. I may as well
 “confess all to the World, for none will sup-
 “pose I would give that Estate up, unless on
 “Refusal I could be compelled.—Mr. L.
 “Very true, her enjoying it at your Grand-
 “mother’s Death, might not be known so
 “long as you lived ; but, on your Death, it
 “must have been publick, since you left it to
 “her by your Will :—Could the World sup-

“ pose you would give from your own Family
 “ so large an Estate, without passing the same
 “ Judgment it would now ?——Mr. C. It
 “ would be the same ; but their Judgment
 “ would not then affect me, I should not be
 “ sensible of ought that could be said.—
 “ Mr. L. Very well, Sir, you have refused,
 “ and the Law must determine it ; had you
 “ desisted, on your last leaving *Sidbury*, I
 “ would have engaged her ; but you have
 “ said, she is your Wife, and I will cease my
 “ Pretensions.—Mr. C. What say you, *Betty*,
 “ am I, as Mr. *Lee* says, to be prosecuted ?”—I
 “ said, “ Yes.—” Mr. C. You cannot touch my
 “ Fortune by a Prosecution. You may hurt
 “ my Reputation ; but you, in prosecuting,
 “ will make yourself infamous.”—I replied,
 “ I know my own Innocence will support me
 “ against any Thing you can say. You can’t
 “ now terrify me ; for, even admitting I should
 “ make myself infamous, (which is impossible)
 “ if I had no other Way of punishing you,
 “ I should disregard that : The Terms pro-
 “ posed to you, you made yourself, and with
 “ no other will I comply. You have ever
 “ prevented my Happiness, it is now in my
 “ Power to punish you ; and rest assured, that
 “ to do that, were I obliged to suffer myself,
 “ I would smilingly walk to my Execution.
 “ Were I freed from you, the only Hope I
 “ should

“ should have of Happiness would be from
 “ Mr. *Lee*, which you have (as you think)
 “ twice disappointed me of ; once when he
 “ courted me long since, and now, when you
 “ thought me on the Point of Marriage with
 “ him. Ever since my Engagement to you,
 “ I have not enjoyed one Moment’s Peace,
 “ and have suffered from you, as much as
 “ Woman could suffer from Man.—Mr. C.
 “ Poor Girl ! I do believe I have been the
 “ Occasion of all your Misery, and that you
 “ have suffered a great Deal on my Account ;
 “ I wish it had been otherwise ; I ever loved
 “ you ; and, when at *Pinkney*, I thought you
 “ determined to marry Mr. *Lee*, for three
 “ Days and Nights I was absolutely mad.—I
 “ wish I was dead.—I was once as much at
 “ your Disposal, as you now are at his ; and
 “ had you shewn half the Resolution then,
 “ that you now do, none of this had hap-
 “ pened.”—I said, “ Had you then told me
 “ your Intention of Marriage, I had shewn the
 “ same Resolution, by saying I was your
 “ Wife : That you knew, and therefore would
 “ not trust me with your Scheme ; but assured
 “ me, it was only a pretended Courtship to
 “ deceive the World, which you would break
 “ off, as you had done others. I expressed
 “ great Uneasiness, even at this ; and you
 “ protested, if I declared my Marriage, you
 “ would

“ would leave me, and never see me more.”—
 “ Mr. C. I did say so ; but should have acted
 “ otherwise.—Mr. L. How the D—l should
 “ she know that ?—Mr. C. *Betty*, pray let me
 “ talk with you alone for a Moment—Mr. L.
 “ She may be with you alone, if she pleases ;
 “ but if she is, she must absolutely resign me.
 “ —Mr. C. Then I don’t desire it.”—I said,
 “ Speak with you alone ! no, nothing, but
 “ the express Desire of Mr. *Lee* shall make
 “ me do it. If you would prove your Regard
 “ to me, do that Thing which alone can
 “ make me happy. The Terms were your
 “ own ; I quitted you on your last Marriage,
 “ and you offered that Estate ; confirm that
 “ Gift, and give me a Release.”—Mr. C. You
 “ were always my Heir ; and on my second
 “ Marriage, I did promise you *Sidbury* Estate,
 “ and would give it you if you remained
 “ single ; but I will not augment your For-
 “ tune a Shilling to marry another Man.—
 “ Mr. L. She is single, nor, do I believe, has
 “ any Intention of marrying ; therefore no
 “ Alteration of Circumstances can make your
 “ Promises void. It is needless to talk any
 “ more. You have rejected our Proposals,
 “ and another Remedy must be taken.—Mr.
 “ C. I should be very glad to meet you alone
 “ about it.—Mr. L. All Expressions between
 “ us, Mr. *Cresswell*, should be perfectly clear.

“ What do you mean by offering to meet me
 “ alone ? Is it to attempt settling this Affair ?
 “ If it is, be convinced, that (if I have any
 “ Interest) it shall be settled on no other Terms
 “ but those I have proposed ; or is our Meet-
 “ ing to be on another Account ? If it is, we
 “ should speak plainly : I believe few Civili-
 “ ties will pass between us : By G—d I have
 “ no good Wishes towards you, and I verily
 “ believe your Regard for me is not greater.
 “ Tell me, therefore, what you propose by
 “ this Conference ?—Mr. C. Possibly we may
 “ settle it ; but if you don’t choose to meet
 “ me alone, *Fred.* shall be by.—Mr. L. It is
 “ indifferent to me, whether our Meeting is
 “ with or without *Fred.* No other Terms
 “ ever will be complied with ; and, so long
 “ as you refuse those, no Meeting will be
 “ efficacious ; even the present Meeting has
 “ answered no End.——Mr. C. To you,
 “ perhaps, it may not ; but it has convinced
 “ me of two Things, which, till now, I have
 “ been in Doubt of ; and I am sure you now
 “ can’t tell, whether, if you could prove
 “ against me all you desire to prove, it would
 “ be Joy or Grief to me.—Mr. L. The Opi-
 “ nions of Mankind are so egregiously diffe-
 “ rent, that it is certainly impossible to know,
 “ whether any Accident will be the Occasion
 “ of Joy or Grief ; yet, on many Occasions,
 “ as

“ as on this, we give very shrewd Guesses.—
 “ Mr. *Cresswell*, you would, by these dubious
 “ Expressions, make us think you really love
 “ Miss *Scrope*; but, whatever our Opinions,
 “ are, these doubtful Expressions of yours
 “ will not alter them. I verily believe, that
 “ at one Time, you wished her to marry, and
 “ at that Time, had not these Obstacles inter-
 “ vened, I was resolved to marry her. If you
 “ thought she deceived me, and wished it to
 “ be, you should not have over-shot the Mark,
 “ and failed, by using improper Methods, in
 “ doing which, you went directly contrary to
 “ your own Wishes.—Mr. C. I don’t under-
 “ stand you. I wish you would repeat that
 “ again.—Mr. L. I thought my Expressions
 “ were clear, and intelligible; your asking
 “ me to repeat them, makes me suspect some
 “ bad Design in the Request.—Mr. C. I be-
 “ lieve your Expressions were very clear, and
 “ intelligible, and that the Fault was in my
 “ Comprehension; for, indeed, my Head is so
 “ confused I scarce understand others, or know
 “ what I say myself.—Mr. L. I had no pre-
 “ meditated Scheme of what I should say to
 “ you, therefore, speak only the present
 “ Thought, which dies at the Utterance, as
 “ did this; for I really don’t remember it.—
 “ Mr. C. Well I don’t desire a Repetition.—

Here

A Page misplaced.

Here we had some Discourse about the Note, the Farms that were in my Grandmother's Hands, and other Things relating to her Want of Money, of no Consequence to mention.—
 Mr. C. "I fancy my staying longer will not be agreeable, as we cannot settle any Thing.—"
 Mr. L. I believe it will not be of any Signification.—Mr. C. *Betty*, your Servant :
 " *Fred.* do you go with me ?"—My Brother said, " No ; I dine with my Sister."—Mr. C.
 " Your Servant ; I shall see you in the Evening."—

When he was gone, I talked a great Deal to my Brother of my Misfortunes, and desired him, by all Means, to break his Intimacy with Mr. *Cresswell* : He promised me he would, and directly wrote the Copy of a Letter, as follows, which went the same Day, or very soon after.

" S I R,

" I have been all this Morning with my *Mr. Fred.*
 " Sister and Mr. *Lee*, and have had the State *Scrope to*
 " of the Case laid open to me ; which I find *Mr. Cress-*
 " to be so contrary to your State of it, that I *well.*
 " do, from this Time, determine to see you
 " no more, unless with my Brothers and Mr.
 " *Lee*. The Injuries received by my poor Sister, can never be got over, by

" *Fred. Ja. Scrope.*"

A 2

None

None of my Brothers, except *Fred.* (who had heard it from Mr. *Cresswell*) knew certainly of my Marriage, only had been generally told, I had been greatly abused. One Morning he came, and told me Mr. *Cresswell* was then going to my Brother *Tom's* Lodgings, to talk with him on this Affair. To prevent a Conference, which could not but end in a Quarrel, I begged they would directly acquaint him with the Whole, and desire him to refuse a Meeting, unless with them. They did, and he refused to see Mr. *Cresswell*; but wrote him a Letter to this Effect.—“ That he had been
 “ informed of the Injuries I had received, for
 “ which he was a Villain; and, as such, should
 “ certainly, unless he complied with the Pro-
 “ posal, meet with the most severe Resent-
 “ ment from an injured Family.”—Mr. *Cresswell* again attempted seeing him; but was, by an Affront, denied Admittance. He sent an Answer full of humble Praise, as having an high Opinion of my Brother's good Sense, Honour, &c. but concluded with an Accusation against me; who, with him, had already dealt too far in injuring others, and no Compulsion should ever make him hurt his Family, &c.

Mr. *Lee* now wrote to my other two Brothers a particular Account of my State; desiring my Brother *Scrope* to come immediately

to *London*. Some Time after he spent two or three Days in the Country, till his Return I heard not of Mr. *Cresswell*; that Morning he called at my Door, and, being denied, left the following Letter.

“ Betty will you let me meet you when Mr. *Cress-*
 “ you are alone in A Hackney Coach and talk ^{well to} Miss
 “ with you for three moments no body shall *Scrope*.
 “ from me ever know of it let things happen
 “ as they will if you have or ever had y^e least
 “ Love or tendernefs for me you will grant
 “ me so innocent A Favour w^{ch}. I have for
 “ more than 8 Months so ardently desired if
 “ you will I shall expect to see you at the
 “ Window as I go by Just $\frac{1}{2}$ An hour hence
 “ from whence you may either by word of
 “ mouth or by A paper flung to me let me
 “ know the time place &c yours”

The half Hour being expired, he passed by, and saw Mr. *Lee* and my Brother *Tom* reading his Letter. This Attempt made us fear he still prevailed with *Fred.* to see him, and from him had heard that Mr. *Lee* was out of Town, and would stay a Fortnight, so that Mr. *Cresswell* could not expect seeing him; I had declared his Stay would be so long, to know whether he would hear of it. Our Doubts were soon after confirmed; for *Fred.*

directly brought open from him another Letter.

Mr. Cress-
well to
Miss
Scrope. “ Dear Betty you may as well attempt to
“ fly over the Moon as to gain any thing by a
“ prosecution but infamy. Quit the Villain
“ Lee and let me talk with thee alone to try
“ if any thing can be done to save thee.”

Fred.'s continued Intimacy troubled me much. I expostulated very strongly with him, upon the Appearance his Behaviour would have in the World to my Prejudice : He again promised to see him no more.

On the fourth or fifth of *May*, Mr. *Lee* met my Brother *Scrope* at *Barnet*, who was coming to Town, in Consequence of his Letter. The Day after his Arrival, he wrote to Mr. *Cresswell*, to the following Purpose. “ That he
“ was acquainted with his Villany towards me.
“ To satisfy which, if he did not comply with
“ the Terms proposed, he should certainly be
“ prosecuted, &c.” No Return being made, my Brother wrote again, condemning his Indolence, and requiring his positive Resolution ; a Day or two after an Answer came.

Mr. Cress-
well to
Mr.
Scrope. “ Sir Dont think me indolent in an affair of
“ so much consequence because I woud not an-
“ swer your letter till I was well advised I am
“ now

“ now certain indeed I thought I was before
 “ and Mr. Lee when I saw him repeated several
 “ Times y^t he was of y^e same Opinion
 “ wth. me as to y^e Event of A prosecution and
 “ when I desired him to get good opinions before
 “ he consulted you he seemed to think y^e
 “ Case so desperate ⁿ y^t. that was quite needless
 “ yet was determined for Prosecution—there-
 “ fore your Sister was & as she termed it for
 “ revenge but her revenge will be Dearer
 “ Bought than y^e man’s in y^e Fable y^t. put out
 “ one eye that his neighbour might lose both
 “ his—I Flattered myself that your modera-
 “ tion & Equity w^{od} have prevented so great
 “ A peice of folly or that at least you w^{od}
 “ have endeavoured by talking with me to
 “ have known the truth of the case before you
 “ had determined—can you any way be hurt
 “ by it—if I am mistaken and A prosecution
 “ must be fatal to me where is y^e hurt to you
 “ in letting me know it must I not time enough
 “ to prepare A Defence? can I be caught
 “ napping—then perhaps might you gain
 “ what you want without either the shame or
 “ trouble of it w^{ch}. were you wise you w^{od}
 “ choose to do—certainly no woman ever
 “ acted as your sister has done or any family
 “ like your’s is A going to—

ⁿ See whether there is the least Room for giving this
 Turn to any Part of the Conversation, p. 168 to 176.

“ Is it creditable for A woman out of y^e
 “ Gayety of her heart to discover what she
 “ has done and then to enter into A confieracy
 “ with ——— to attempt to Rob and to be
 “ disappointed; An innocent man as to her
 “ whose compaffion has feveral times faved
 “ her life and was the only thing as fhall
 “ plainly appear that lead him into thefe diffi-
 “ culties—but if you ftill refufe feeing me
 “ and I fend you A Written State with fuch
 “ Notes as fhall infallably lead you into the
 “ truth of it will you promife me on your
 “ Honour not to take or permit to be taken
 “ any copy of it or memorundum out of it or
 “ to fhow ° it to any one but to return it fafe
 “ to me again yours as you please Tho’: Eft:
 “ Crefswell

“ P S M^r: Lee let Drop A Hint y^e fome
 “ part of his Eftate was fettled on y^e Heirs
 “ Male of y^e family—But if there is not y^e
 “ leaft Glimmering of hope of A prooffe now,
 “ what can there be any 30 or 40 years Hence
 “ yet if he is doubtfull may not y^e Succelfion
 “ of y^e eftate be unexceptionably warrented to
 “ him.”

° Could my Brother, in Honour, accept this? Why fuch
 extreme Caution in Mr. *Crefswell*? Had he been innocent,
 was it poffible for me to hurt him, even in Reputation?
 Nay, guilty as he is, his Silence would have made the
 Proof of my Accufations vaffly more difficult.

This Letter exasperated my Brother greatly ; however, he answered it, letting Mr. *Cresswell* know our Resolution to acquaint Mrs. *Warnford* with the Whole, and refusing his written Account, unless freed from the Restraint of perusing it himself only.—What End could the Perusal of such a Paper answer ? My Brother could no otherways judge properly of my Misfortunes, but by examining me upon Mr. *Cresswell's* Accusations, and comparing those Accusations with his own Letters, and what he had told *Fred.* and if that Paper was the written Narrative, That, his Letters, and the Story ^p told to *Fred.* all three differed in very material Circumstances. This he feared, and therefore imposed those Restraints ; else, why should he expect so much Privacy, in Regard to my Brother, in a Matter which he design'd, a few Months should produce publickly in a Pamphlet ? In a Day or two he left at my Brother's Lodgings this Letter.

^p He told my Brother *Fred.* (in *January*, 1746, just before *Fred.* came to *Sidbury*) that in the Journey with my Unkle *Moreton* to *Cirencester* (mentioned by me, p. 24.) all that infamous Behaviour passed which he has described at the Beginning of the 16th Page of his *Narrative*. I suppose, afterwards, recollecting that we only dined there, and thinking that might be easily proved, he thought it safer to fix the Time of his *infamous Attempt* ; adding thereto the Circumstance of the *Letter*, and so lay this Scene at *Pinkney*.

Sir

Mr. *Cresswell* to
Mr.
Scrope.

Sir

Gosier Street May y^e: 4th.

“ I could not answer your letter sooner—
“ I desire you will not make Mrs. Warnford
“ unhappy A Day sooner then you can avoid
“ —you have no right to do it—when you
“ have made this affair publick by prosecution
“ I will then and not before tell her & y^e
“ world y^e true Case w^{ch}. I never yet have
“ done to any one nor will do till you begin
“ because it w^{od} be as wicked in me as in you
“ and from that time refrain abusive language
“ for I will not then bear it tho’ I have hither-
“ to because I w^{od} not be the agressor—yet I
“ hope that time will never come—when you
“ apply to Lawyers they will tell you better
“ and, I fancy—Even I—w^{od} you hear me
“ without Lee for in his company I will not^a
“ tell the case could satisfie you that that is
“ most wicked and most foolish and can con-
“ ceive no other reason why you w^{ont} than
“ the fear of not being able afterwards to Jus-

^a Mr. *Lee* was excepted to, because he had all the Letters, which Mr. *Cresswell* reasonably suspected would disprove any false Account he would give, therefore, was a most improper Man to hear his Story. Whereas, my Brothers could only have judged, whether he spoke Truth, by the Probability of his Account. Is it not plain, from this Objection, that Mr. *Cresswell* thought Mr. *Lee* desired a Meeting of all concerned, else, why this Objection?

“ rife

"tise your conduct to the publick by publishing y^e Case."

My Brother would have answered this ; but, at Mr. *Lee*'s Request, let him do it, who carried the following, and delivered it to Mr. *Cresswell*.

" Sir,

" Letters from you to any of the Mr. *Mr. Lee*
Scropes, or myself, are looked upon as an ^{to Mr.}
 " Address to all of us. In this Affair I am as *Cresswell*
 " a Brother, a Favour the Family have been
 " so good to grant me. In this Character
 " receive from me an Answer to your Letter.

" I will write to Mrs. *Warnford*, which
 " every Rule of Right will justify. That
 " Unhappiness is the Consequence of my
 " Letter, condemn yourself, not me. We
 " are very certain, that on the Prosecution
 " you must tell the true State of the Case,
 " since so much Care has been taken to place
 " every Thing in so clear a Light, that you
 " will find it a Matter too difficult to cast a
 " Mist over them. Neither do we suspect that
 " you have yet told the true State of the
 " Case to any : Like a wise Man, you strike
 " at the Passions of those upon whom you

* Here Mr. *Lee* refers to the Story Mr. *Cresswell* told
Fred. Note p, Page 123.

B b

" would

“ would work.” “ From that Time refrain
 “ abusive Language” (after the Prosecution is
 “ begun I suppose) “ for I will not then bear
 “ it, tho’ I have hitherto, because I woud not
 “ be the agresfor. Yet, I hope, that Time
 “ will never come :” “ You are certainly right,
 “ Mr. *Cresswell*, Fear is a prevailing Passion,
 “ and frequently keeps Men and Women too
 “ in very decent Awe. Relying, therefore,
 “ on the Privilege you have given us, and
 “ been so little ceremonious in taking with
 “ me in your Letter *Fred.* brought your Wife,
 “ Quit the Villain *Lee*, I have taken the same
 “ Liberty with you in my Letter to Mrs.
 “ *Warnford*.

“ Mr. *Cresswell*, your Opinion and mine, in
 “ some Points, very luckily meet; but in
 “ other Affairs may we eternally differ, till
 “ you are pleased to think otherwise than at
 “ present.

“ I am doubly interested in this Affair;
 “ first and strongest, by the Call of Justice,
 “ which I will most strenuously follow. You,
 “ Sir, have been so good to give me a second
 “ Call; personally, I mean. When Mr. *Lee*
 “ courted, whom he thought Miss *Scrope*, so
 “ far from injuring any, he was then acting
 “ most virtuously. On this Account Mr.
 “ *Cresswell* thought proper to insult him,
 “ though not so grossly, that he could resent
 “ it.

“ it. He pursued his Resentment, by Letters,
 “ to his Wife ; wherein Mr. *Lee*’s Name was
 “ not handled with that Decency, that he
 “ could be glad Mankind should treat it with.
 “ His Conversation with *Fred*. I have no Reason
 “ to think was much in my Favour.

“ Calm your Passions, for a little Time, it
 “ will be of no Service to suffer them unbridled,
 “ since it is impossible you can, at present,
 “ raise a Warmth in us, to answer the End
 “ you would, in your Letter, seem to propose.
 “ We are strictly engaged with each other,
 “ against personal Revenge now ; when the
 “ Prosecution is over, and your Wife has obtained
 “ that Justice she has hitherto greatly
 “ wanted, rest assured, that from some of us
 “ you shall receive that Redress you so much
 “ want ; and believe me, Mr. *Cresswell*, en fang
 “ froid, I wish the Lot may fall to one you
 “ have so deeply injured.

May the 5th, 1747.

L^t. Lee.

Mr. *Cresswell*’s Answer the next Day.

“ Sir

“ As the family have proper to receive *Mr. Cress-*
 “ you As A Brother I will answer your letter *well to*
 “ But my thoughts y^t you wanted to Avoid *Mr. Lee.*
 “ being such By prosecuting me made me call
 “ you Villain for I took you to be A man of
 “ fence and as such if you meant being A Bro-

“ ther you woud never have profecuted me
 “ unless your rancour and ill will had over-
 “ come your understanding for you know you
 “ can gain nothing but infamy by prosecution
 “ I desire you will not write to Mrs. *Warnford*
 “ till you have began with me it will do you
 “ no good then let me tell the Story myself
 “ But I fancy you will not comply with my
 “ desire for no other reason than because I
 “ desire it——

“ I declared that day, ever since, and do
 “ now y’ when I last dined with you at Coton
 “ I meant not to affront you But as you have
 “ in this whole affair without cause or reason
 “ or advantage to yourself in any shape meanly
 “ and Scandalously attempted my ruin I wish
 “ the Lot may fall on you choose it I hope
 “ they will let you if not if I survive I will
 “ be always ready for you—Tho’ I never told

* I verily believe Mr. *Lee*’s Inducement was his very great Regard for me, justified by the Equity of my Cause. I never knew a Man act so tenderly towards an Enemy, though he spoke so severely against him. I truly think Revenge cannot be justified ; but, as a Crime, it may be extenuated. See Mr. *Cresswell*’s Letters, p. 94, 96, 113, and 126, all before Mr. *Lee* had given him an Affront of any Kind. Supposing, therefore, he had revengefully turned upon Mr. *Cresswell*, to him it could have been no Injury, who was then laying Snares for Mr. *Lee* ; which, succeeding, must have made every future Moment of his Life miserable.

“ any

“ any one the true & whole state of y^e Case
 “ yet I never told A false one never talked of
 “ it but to two Fred and Lord Ducie never
 “ told it to either of them so much in my
 “ own Favour as it really is the truth shall come
 “ out and fancy shall be able to prove unex-
 “ ceptionably that it is so—

“ Did it look as if I had A mind to
 “ frighten my adversaries when I wanted them
 “ to hear my state of the Case had they been
 “ wise they woud have done so

An Expres was sent the next Day to Mrs.
Warnford, which (I believe) arrived at *Bibury*
 in the Morning. So we designed it should.
 The Letter was very long, and not necessary
 to be repeated here; being truly only an Ab-
 stract of this Pamphlet. If the Omission is
 condemned, let Mrs. *Warnford* publish it.
 Mr. *Cresswell*, concluding some of us would
 write, left Town immediately; probably,
 hoping to arrive at *Bibury* Time enough to
 intercept the Letter; but he was some Hours
 too late.

As soon as he was gone, I went to examine
 the *Fleet* Registers, where I saw that of * * * *

* * * * * agreeable to Mr. *Lee's*

Memorandum * * * * *

* * * * *

* * * * *

* * * * *

* * * * *

* * * * *

* * * * * My next Search was to find how far, in Law, I was bound, by examining what Evidence could possibly be produced of my own Marriage. I easily went to the House ; for the Shape and Furniture of the Room was deeply imprinted in my Memory, and my Description of it was so minutely particular, that Mr. *Lee*, in his first Journey, had found it. I saw neither the Clergyman or the Woman Clerk. The former, by all the Enquiry we could make, died about *Christmas*, 1745. I did not know his Name, therefore cannot positively declare this ; but, above one hundred People separately, by my Description, pitched upon this Man, whose Name was *Ash-wood*.

wood. His Person was uncommonly remarkable. The Woman was not so particular, so that I could not make the least Guess what was become of her ; my Description being too faint for any one to know her by. I did not now wish to establish my own Marriage ; because, my living with a Man I detested, and despised, must have been the Consequence.

* * * * *

* * * There would not have been a Probability of being divorced. This, however, would have been the utmost of my Power, upon a legal Proof. My Fortune too, now certain, though small, would have been changed to a precarious separate Maintenance ; I say precarious, because, Miss *Warnford* satisfied, very little of Mr. *Cresswell's* Estate would have remained. In Point of Revenge, no Advantage could be gained ; for, on a legal Proof of three Marriages, he would have enjoyed, with all other Felons, the common Benefit of the Act of Grace.

For these Reasons Mr. *Lee* always promised my Brothers to marry me, when they could gain my Consent. I absolutely refused ; resolved never to marry, while Mr. *Cresswell*, by

: See the last Note in the Pamphlet.

a Set of foolish Lies, obliged me, in my own Justification, to make publick only my Marriage with him. After the Express, I was satisfied of Miss *Warnford's* Safety ; and, had he been silent, I should have gone to *Lincoln*, rather choosing to live single, than declare what I knew of a first Marriage, to vindicate my admitting Mr. *Lee's* Addresses : But Mr. *Cresswell* has proceeded still more foolishly, in his *Narrative*, in speaking of Mr. *Lee's* Courtship in such a Manner, as absolutely forced me to show, that my Behaviour, in this Particular, has not been inconsistent, or an Offence against Honour or Conscience. As a Woman, I think myself extremely unfortunate, in being compelled into the Protection of a Man, whose Care and Regard are as detrimental to my Reputation, in my Circumstances, almost as a real Loss of Honour would have been. Many private People, in the World, I believe, are kept honest through a Desire of keeping the good Opinion of those around them. This good Opinion, once destroyed, what will preserve Integrity ! Will ought, besides a real Love of Virtue for its own Sake, and the Encouragement of Happiness in the next Life, encreasing proportionally to the Trials in this ? I have a secret Satisfaction, within my own Breast, that no Riches could have purchased, or any Contempt from

the World can disturb, reflecting upon the Choice I made. I could have married ^u Mr. *Lee*, a Man, in my own Opinion, unexceptionable; and could have preserved as fair a Character, in so doing, as perhaps any Mortal ever possessed. But at what Price was this Character to have been preserved? At the Expence of all that can be held most sacred in this Life, by marrying him as Miss *Scrope*, and so making his Happiness entirely dependent on Mr. *Cresswell*, who, it is plain, by his Offer of receiving me after such Marriage, had prepared all for the Completion of Mr. *Lee*'s Misery, that the most devilish inveterate Malice could suggest to the worst of Hearts. Had my Inclination been vicious ^w, I could have lived at *Sidbury*, in the Company of Mr. *Cresswell*, as much as I pleased, still preserving an unblemished Character. Why did I refuse both these, but because the Terms, upon which either must have been accepted, were the Purchase of Reputation, at the Expence of Virtue? A Shadow for the Substance.—Methinks I hear an Enemy say, “ If this is true, yet

^u In *April*, 1746, when there was not even a Suspicion of my Marriage.

^w Need I have said more to Mr. *Lee*, on his Proposal of Marriage, than, I dislike your Person, or will not marry? Mr. *Lee* could have said nothing of Mr. *Cresswell*, had I been silent.

“ she might be more sparing in her own
 “ Praise.”—Vanity, I own, is a Fault ; but
 tell me another Reason, why Self-Glory is
 blame-worthy, but because it is generally false.
 We are hurt to hear a Woman commend her
 Person, or her Sense ; but no one ever was
 disgusted when he heard a Woman defend her
 Integrity. I desire my Enemies would strictly
 enquire into my Character, in every Place I
 ever lived ; let them not except the Mistress of
 the Lodging-House, who, Mr. *Cresswell* says,
 was shocked at my Behaviour ; by asking, at
both Houses, they will find his Account false.
 Let them, from Report, and his own Account,
 judge of my Guilt or Innocence. I have al-
 ready mentioned my first Lodgings, which, at
 the Desire of my Brothers, I left, on Account
 of their Smallness. They, and Mr. *Lee*,
 thought it most convenient to eat with me,
 and make a weekly Purse for that Purpose, as
 a less Expence to us all. For this Reason they
 took Lodgings at the House of one *Mrs. Pe-*
terson, next Door to the *Cocoa-Tree* in *Pall-*
Mall, and changed their own Lodgings to be
 near mine. I never once, to the best of my
 Remembrance, dined or supped with Mr. *Lee*
 alone ; he never came to me in the Morning
 before Ten, nor ever once stayed after my Bro-
 thers in the Evening. What Dependance Mr.
Cresswell can have on either of these People,

to

where were
 they? - see
 ante p

✓

to confirm such a notorious Piece of Falshood, is to me astonishing. I had, with the first Woman, a trifling Dispute about some Table-Linen; and with the second, a very warm Quarrel, about carrying out of the House a young Girl, who was with me, dangerously ill of the Small-Pox. But, surely, Revenge will never carry either of these People, to so desperate a Degree of Malice, as to second such an infamous Assertion. What Account could I have given to my Brothers of such an Expof-tulation, as is pretended? If this was a Point of Consequence, and necessary to be brought before a Court of Law, I could, indisputably, disprove the Accusation *, upon the positive Oaths of two or three People.

We had the Opinions of several very eminent Lawyers, concerning my unhappy Case. All agreed, that it was impossible for our Marriage to be proved, (supposing that the Clergyman was dead) and, consequently, not in my Power to distress Mr. *Cresswell*, or in his to disturb me. In the midst of my Misfortunes, it was a great Comfort to find myself entirely out of his Power; and I should have retired very well satisfied, and left his Character as it was, had he been wise enough to be silent; but it was proper that he should be publicly

* The last four Lines of the *Narrative*.

marked ; and I am very glad his Folly has led him into so much Infamy.

May.

But to return ; — Mr. *Cresswell* went from *Bibury*, to *Sidbury*, in order to get my Grand-mother to *Pinkney*. — My Brother and I wrote to prevent her going ; but he cheated her into the Coach, and carried her away. A poor old Relation, who had lived with her for full twenty Years before her Death, was, in the Confusion, left behind, with hardly Necessaries for her Support ; and Mr. *Cresswell* ordered her, though Bedrid, to be removed. She was excessively shocked at the Thoughts of going, and prayed very fervently, that she might die without being able to be stirred. — The poor old Creature languished a few Months, and died.

In *July*, Mr. *Lee* and my Brothers were very anxious to leave Town, and a Day was fixed ; but, unfortunately, a Girl I had with me was taken with the Small-Pox, and I could not leave her, under a Week or ten Days. My Brothers *Scrope* and *Tom* went to *Lincoln*, Mr. *Lee* and *Fred.* staid in Town : We intended setting out as soon as possible, and my Brother promised to meet us at *Bridgnorth*, where I designed staying only to get my Things from *Sidbury*, and then going to *Lincoln*. They had not left me above three Days when Mr. *Cresswell* returned : He came directly to my Lodgings,

ings, thence to Mr. *Lee's*, and at Dinner-time sent the following Letter to *Fred.* who was ill, where we were.

“ Sun Tavern the corner of the Street that *Mr. Cress-*
 “ Mr. *Willis* y^e Apothecary lives in I have been ^{well to}
 “ in town An Hour and more I have called at *Mr. Fred.*
 “ your Sister's lodging and at Mr. *Lee's* I *Scrope.*
 “ should have been glad to have seen either of
 “ y^m but more so to have seen your Sister,
 “ they told me at her Lodgings that she is
 “ with you & suppose Mr. *Lee* with her if so
 “ and either of y^m will see me I should be
 “ glad to see y^m to night where they please
 “ because I shall go out of town to morrow if
 “ I hear nothing in answer to this I shall never
 “ any more trouble myself about her there-
 “ fore if neither she nor he is with you send
 “ word so in writing by y^e Bearer because if I
 “ dont hear from you I shall not lose my time
 “ in going after y^m. to morrow Yours”

Fred.'s right Arm was so lame he could not write ; Mr. *Lee* wrote as follows,

“ Sir,

“ The Affairs between us are of too much *Mr. Lee to*
 “ Consequence to trifle about. Looking upon *Mr. Cress-*
 “ yourself as a Man of Sense, you cannot *well.*
 “ suppose we have proceeded thus far inconfi-
 “ derately. Mr. *Scrope* and Mr. *Tom Scrope*
 “ are

“ are out of Town ; nor shall we see them
 “ again sooner than a Fortnight hence. We
 “ have never yet varied in our Proposals to
 “ you ; and there has been sufficient Time for
 “ you to determine your Method of acting.
 “ If your Design is to comply with those, we
 “ will see you ; if not, our Time is equally
 “ precious with yours, which we are as unwill-
 “ ling to throw idly away. We are all now
 “ here. You know the Terms, and may act
 “ just as you please. Whatever your Resolu-
 “ tions are, they will be equally indifferent to
 “ *L^d. Lee.*”

We heard nothing more from him that Night, but the next Morning he sent his Attorney to my Lodgings, with whom I had the following Conversation.—“ Mr. *Cresswell* is in
 “ Town, is he not?—Yes, Madam, I just
 “ came from him, and should be glad to
 “ speak with you in Private for three or four
 “ Minutes.—If you please, you may walk into
 “ this Room ; but if your Business is from
 “ Mr. *Cresswell*, there is no Need of Privacy.
 “ This Lady, and indeed the whole Kingdom
 “ is acquainted with it—My Business is from
 “ Mr. *Cresswell* ; he desires to see you alone—
 “ I will not see him ; I would as soon see the
 “ Devil—I hope not ; Mr. *Cresswell* believes,
 “ if he could but speak with you, Matters
 “ might

" might be ended amicably, that he may live
 " with you, parting from the other Woman,
 " which indeed he always intended—No, 'tis
 " impossible he can think of that, and, if it
 " should be so, I would certainly get a Di-
 " vorce—Madam, that can't be—I know the
 " contrary ; Mr. *Cresswell* says I am his Wife ;
 " should that appear, I can most certainly
 " prove his living in Adultery—Oh, Madam,
 " is it not better to live with him peaceably
 " than be forced?—I know I can't be forced.
 " Mr. *Witts*, if you will stay a little I will send
 " for Mr. *Lee*—No, Madam, I had rather be
 " excused ; I have no Commission to him ; I
 " will go and tell Mr. *Cresswell* what you say,
 " whose Desire to see you is so great, that, he
 " will even submit to Mr. *Lee*'s being pre-
 " sent, rather than not see you at all.—
 " He will not be permitted to see me
 " with or without Mr. *Lee*, but on the
 " Terms he knows"—I gave him a short Ac-
 " count of the Injuries I had received ; at which
 " he was so shocked, that he dropped Tears and
 " said, " It is bad, indeed ; very bad ; and I
 " can say nothing in Vindication of Mr. *Cress-*
 " *well*." Here Mr. *Lee* coming, I said, " This
 " is Mr. *Witts*, who is come to me, with a
 " Message from Mr. *Cresswell*." He applied
 " to Mr. *Witts* ; " I am surprized, that Mr.
 " *Cresswell* trifles so much, in an Affair of so
 " great

“ great Consequence : I do not, in any Degree,
 “ doubt his Villainy ; but, really, I always
 “ thought him a Man of Sense ; and, yet, in
 “ this he acts directly contrary to that Charac-
 “ ter. He knows our Proposals, from which
 “ we have not once deviated. Cannot he tell
 “ whether he will or will not comply ?—Mr.
 “ *W.* He wants to speak with Madam *Cress-*
 “ *well* alone.—Mr. *L.* I believe he does ; but
 “ what End can it answer ? She is at her own
 “ Disposal, and will act as she thinks proper.
 “ —Mr. *W.* I hope she will see him.”—I said,
 “ I will not.—Mr. *L.* Indeed, Mr. *Witts*, it
 “ will be to no Purpose.—Mr. *W.* You can’t
 “ tell.—Mr. *L.* Could you guess what Usage
 “ she has received from him, you would not
 “ wish she should see him. Believe me, he
 “ could not have employed any other Man, to
 “ whom we would have spoke on this Sub-
 “ ject : I have ever heard you represented as
 “ a Man of great Integrity and Honesty,
 “ therefore we listen to you. *R—y* was here
 “ on the same Errand, and our Determination
 “ was, not to suffer him to speak on this
 “ Subject.—Mr. *W.* I am much obliged to
 “ you, Sir, for your good Opinion.—Mr. *L.*
 “ Sir, I have, my whole Life, wished to be a
 “ Friend to Miss *Scrope* : Ten Years ago I
 “ courted her ; *Cresswell*, fearing my Ad-
 “ dresses, engaged her. Some Years after-
 “ wards,

“wards, supposing her single, my Affection
 “still remaining, I renewed my Addresses.
 “He disappointed me. She told me the
 “Reason. I cannot now be the Lover; from
 “that Hope I am intirely cut off, unless he
 “dies, and the Instant that happens, and
 “she consents, I will marry her. Till then,
 “I will do her all the Service I can. My
 “Fortune and Life shall be devoted to her.—
 “Mr. *W.* I wish Madam *Cresswell* would see
 “him. If she does not, all will be up. He
 “will be prosecuted, and pulled to Pieces.
 “His only Remedy will be to leave the King-
 “dom—Mr. *L.* Thank God the Kingdom
 “will be rid of a Knave. * * * * *

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* * * * * Mr. *W.* I am sorry
 “Things go so ill. I see nothing but Ruin.
 “For God’s Sake, Madam, hear his Propo-
 “sals.—You can’t tell what he has to say—
 “let Mr. *Lee* be present.”——I said, “No,
 “he knows the Terms, I will see him on no
 “other.—Mr. *W.* Pray, Sir, do you hear his
 “Proposals.—Mr. *L.* No; it can be to no
 “Purpose. We can meet but upon two Oc-
 “casions. The first, on the proposed Terms:
 “The other, to cut one another’s Throats,

D d

“ which

“ which I don’t desire to do.—Mr. *W.* Con-
 “ sider, Sir, how many People a publick Pro-
 “ secution will make unhappy: Perhaps, a
 “ Meeting may prevent that; Mr. *Cresswell*
 “ and Madam may be reconciled.”——I an-
 “ swered, “ I will die first. If I could for-
 “ give his other Injuries, I could not his At-
 “ tempt to hurt my Reputation, by saying, I
 “ knew of his Marriage, and consented to it,
 “ for which he is a Villain.—Mr. *W.* Indeed,
 “ Madam, I don’t believe he ever said so.—
 “ Mr. *L.* I am sure he said it.—Mr. *W.* Upon
 “ my Soul, he never said it to me.—Mr. *L.*
 “ Well, Mr. *Witts*, upon your Account, thus
 “ far I will concede. Let him, in Writing,
 “ make his Proposals, which I will read over:
 “ He once before offered Mr. *Scrope* a Paper,
 “ containing the Whole between him and Miss
 “ *Scrope*, on Condition he would, immedi-
 “ ately after reading, return it, without suffer-
 “ ing a Copy to be taken. Mr. *Scrope* very
 “ prudently refused to receive it upon those
 “ Terms; nor will I. Whatever he sends I
 “ will keep. * * * * *

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he is afraid to give
 “ any

“ any Writing, lest, being convicted of perpetual Contradictions, he should never be believed. If he dares write, I will give his Paper the Reading.”—I said, “ Upon my Word, Mr. *Witts*, I dare not see him, for Fear he should murder me * * * *
* * * * * Mr. *W*.

“ Indeed, it is very bad ; God forbid that I should press a Thing, that might be attended with such fatal Consequences. But suppose, Sir, I should, by Word of Mouth, bring you any Proposal from him.—Mr. *L*. It would be much more effectual in Writing. Will you answer, that he shall comply with any Proposal you bring ? There is no Dependence on any Thing he says. I have no Objection to talking with you ; but it will be only doing nothing, but losing Time, in sending Messages backwards and forwards.—Mr. *W*. Well, I am very sorry ; Madam *Cresswell*, your Servant, Sir, &c.

In the Afternoon Mr. *Witts* came to us at my Brother *Fred.*'s, where we dined. Mr. *Lee* asked, if he had any written Proposal from Mr. *Cresswell* ?——“ Mr. *W*. No ; he will not write any Thing ; but begs to see Madam *Cresswell*.” I answered, “ I will not see him.—Mr. *W*. But, dear Madam, consider, is it not better to do this quietly, than by

“ Force ? He is determined to part with his
 “ other Wife, and own his Marriage with you,
 “ in which Case, you will be forced to live
 “ with him ; and then, how miserable will
 “ your Life be ? You must never see any of
 “ your Friends, unless Mr. *Cresswell* pleases ;
 “ and Mr. *Lee* can never come to you then.—
 “ Mr. *L.* Is that his Design ? Well, there
 “ appears some Reason in it. I am very glad
 “ to hear it. This would have been the End
 “ of our Prosecution. The whole Expence
 “ and Trouble of it will be saved, if he
 “ claims her as his Wife. We shall have no
 “ Trouble on our Hands after, but to get a
 “ Divorce—Mr. *W.* Dear Sir, that will be
 “ impossible.—Mr. *L.* No, No, indeed, it
 “ will not. But no Matter whether it is or
 “ no. If this is his Intention, there is no Oc-
 “ casion for his Entreaty to see her. He may
 “ command it. She has ever been a most un-
 “ fortunate Woman, inured to Afflictions. I
 “ wish he may claim her, all Methods then
 “ shall be tried to get a Divorce ; if that fails,
 “ I know that her Religion and Virtue will
 “ enable her to support a State of so much
 “ Misery.—Mr. *W.* But, surely, they may be
 “ reconciled ; I love and wish them both
 “ well.—Mr. *L.* It is impossible—her Abuses
 “ have been of too deep a Nature.—Mr. *W.*
 “ Let her Sufferings be ever so great, she must,
 “ if

“ if Mr. *Cresswell* pleases, live with him.
 “ Suppose I was now come, in Mr. *Cresswell*’s
 “ Name, to bring her to him? She could
 “ not refuse going; nor would you dare to
 “ keep her by Force.—Mr. *L.* You would
 “ most certainly find that we should: If Mr.
 “ *Cresswell* proved his Marriage, indeed, none
 “ would dare to detain her, otherwise every
 “ Friend she has would do it.—Mr. *W.* I
 “ may, in Mr. *Cresswell*’s Name, come and
 “ take her without any previous Demand.
 “ But, I hope, all Things may yet be made
 “ up quietly.—Mr. *L.* I must laugh at this
 “ Scheme. But it will not do, Mr. *Witts*; he
 “ will not claim her, or send you, but will
 “ certainly be prosecuted by us.—Mr. *W.*
 “ What, Sir, you will prosecute him for Bi-
 “ gamy.—Mr. *L.* That we shall, most cer-
 “ tainly, unless he prevents us by claiming
 “ her.—Mr. *W.* You can’t hurt him so
 “ deeply as you imagine. He will be tried,
 “ perhaps, convicted; but the Punishment is
 “ trifling, and the Consequence——Madam
 “ *Cresswell* must live with him. For you,
 “ Madam, you must not be surprized, if To-
 “ morrow I come, in Mr. *Cresswell*’s Name,
 “ to claim you as his Wife.—Mr. *L.* The
 “ latter Scheme is good; but, in Truth, Mr.
 “ *Witts*, I think Bigamy a monstrous Crime;
 “ and should esteem the Punishment, inflicted
 “ by

“ by the Law, in that Case, as a glaring
 “ Mark of Infamy.—Mr. *W.* Oh! No, it is
 “ trifling; besides, a Man cannot easily be
 “ convicted. I, myself, once defended a Man
 “ that had seven Wives.” —

Here we were interrupted by a Message from Mr. *Cresswell* to Mr. *Witts*, desiring his Company: Little more was said, except declaring our fixed Resolution of not seeing him.

At this Time I really would have seen him, and Mr. *Lee*, privately, too wished a Meeting; but we had very strong Information, that he was then in Debate, whether to comply with Mrs. *Warnford*'s Terms, or not, and was, therefore, more anxious to end the Dispute with me amicably. I did not desire any private End; but, if possible, would have thrown him more into Mrs. *Warnford*'s Power; and, for that Reason, kept steadily to Terms, which, we were all positive, he would never consent to. Our Steadiness had its Effect; for, I believe, upon his Return, he complied.

Nar.p.70,
71,72,73.

August.

I heard no more of Mr. *Cresswell*; and on the *Monday* following I set out, with my Brother *Fred.* and Mr. *Lee*, for *Bridgnorth*, where my Brother *Scrope* came, within three Days after us: They both went with Mr. *Lee* to his House, and I staid behind. I had, very soon, the Favour of a Visit from Mrs. *Lee*, who expressed a great deal of Concern for my Sufferings,

ings, and great Satisfaction at her Son's Attachment to me ; making many Excuses, that she had not the Opportunity of offering me Part of her House ; but, as she was just come, she had only one Bed for herself and Miss *Bet.* Mr. *Lee* and my Brothers frequently came over to see me ; and, in one of the Visits, Mrs. *Lee*, being alone, he invited her over to his House. She declined going, unless he would engage me in the Party. He told her, I would not go at his Desire, but, undoubtedly, would not refuse her. Mrs. *Lee* came, and pressed me to go ; I really objected against it very strongly, not through Inclination, but Prudence. My Objections displeased her ; and, upon the Interposition of my Brothers, I went : We stayed but a short Time, and returned. Soon after she made a second Visit, and again insisted upon my going. I went, and our Stay was very long. At this Time I received a Letter from my Sister, filled with Complaints of the Smallness of her House, Want of Beds, Inconvenience of Company while she lay in, &c. all which appeared to me as so many Hints, that my Absence might very well be dispensed with. Perhaps my Resentment might be too quick, and, what was so cutting in my distressed State, might, at another Time, have passed unregarded. But mine was a well-grounded Jealousy. The Invitation, last Year,

was

was just such another, impossible to be accepted ; as may be noted by that Letter of Mr. *Cresswell's*, who, tho' he earnestly wished for me to go to *Lincoln*, yet was forced to say, " Or ac-
 Page 105. " cept your Sister's Invitation. Bad as it " was, it was an Invitation." However, I shewed the Letter to my Brothers and Mr. *Lee*: He and *Fred.* thought it designed to prevent my Coming, my elder Brother thought otherwise. I determined not to go to my Sister's, but was still anxious to live at *Lincoln*; and much more so, as Mr. *Lee* desired it. We pressed my Brother *Scrope* to let me be with him: He consented, only objected, that he should be sometimes absent, when I must take Care to provide for myself ; but, to make it easy, he would leave the Servants at Board-Wages. This pleased me ; and I determined going in *October*. I could not set out with my Brother, so *Fred.* promised to come at the appointed Time, and conduct me. Thus were
September. Things settled when they left us, one going to
October. *Lincoln*, and the other to *London*.

When we returned to *Bridgnorth*, Mrs. *Lee* very kindly pressed my coming to her House, during my Stay, and for that Purpose borrowed a Bed of her Son. Very soon after, I had a Letter from my Brother, warmly condemning my Stay in *Bridgnorth*, and insisting upon my immediate coming to *Lincoln* ; but mentioned

not his own House, only my Sister's. This was a very disagreeable State; I wished, earnestly; to go to *Lincoln*, only was resolved against going to my Sister's. This he knew; yet pressed, what I wished to do, in such Terms, as made my Compliance impracticable. I was ill, and unable to write; so Mr. *Lee* answered the Letter, agreeing to the Necessity of my going to *Lincoln*; but positively refusing that my Sister's should be the Place, and requested my Brother to receive me; but desired, I might stay a Month, to determine about an Answer to the *Narrative*, just then published. No satisfactory Letter came for a long *November* Time. My other Brothers pressed my Journey to *Lincoln*; but still the same House, which I was resolved against. At last my Brother *Scrope* gave me the following Invitation.

“ * * * * * Mr. *Scrope*
 “ * * * * * to Miss
 “ * * * * * *Scrope*.
 “ * * * * *
 “ * * * * * was my affairs now in
 “ the same situation as when I offer'd you to
 “ live with me, there would be nothing more
 “ agreeable; but it is quite otherwise * *
 “ * * * * *
 “ * * * * *
 “ & sometime ago beg'd it of you as a
 E c “ favour,

“ favour, to be content with 4*l.* p*r.* Cent^r &
 “ Interest for your fortune, till I had got over
 “ some of my difficulties ; but you did not
 “ choose to do it, & I continued it at 5*l.*
 “ rather than have any uneasiness between us ;
 “ this was at a Time you little expected these
 “ Misfortunes, &, in itself, indifferent to you,
 “ whether I allow’d 4 or 5 p*r.* Cent^r. tho’ it
 “ was to me very inconvenient * * * *
 “ * * * * * If, upon the whole,
 “ you & I can agree upon Terms, & you pre-
 “ fer my house to that of a Boarding one, you
 “ may depend upon every thing else, as if
 “ my house was your own ; but even this is
 “ an inconvenience to me, who being alone,
 “ have nothing to do, but consult my own
 “ humour, which I must entirely give up,
 “ when you are with mee, now I breakfast
 “ sometimes at nine, sometimes at twelve, &
 “ dine accordingly, these I must give up, &
 “ conform to more regularity, & therefore
 “ confin’d. I mention not these as desirous of
 “ making my receiving you an Obligation ;
 “ but only to remind you of the inconve-
 “ niencies attendant thereon * * * *
 “ * * * * *

“ It was after my Marriage Mr. *Cresswell* ordered me to
 refuse ; and if my Brother persisted, to call in the Money,
 that he might pay off some of his own Debts with it.

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“ * * * * *

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“ * * * * *

With even this cold Invitation I determined to go ; not that Choice, but Force induced me. If my Brother had demanded half my Fortune, it would have been prudent in me to comply ; but could I have thanked him for it, or thought it a Kindness ? I answered his Letter, and I believe complained of the Unkindness, but did not refuse the Offer. In Return I had two or three severe Letters, and at last the following,

“ * * * * * Mr. Scrope

“ * * * * * to Miss

“ * * * * * Scrope.

“ * * * * *

“ * * * * *

“ * * * * *

“ * * * * *

“ * * * * *

“ * * * * * To give you your

“ Board, I cannot, & to receive you Now as

“ a Boarder, after what has pass'd, I am

“ determin'd against, upon all accounts it

“ would have been Inconvenient, for I must

“ have had house keeping going on upon your

“ account in my absence, which indeed I now

“ have, but that’s easy enough ; If you think
 “ proper to come to Lincoln, you may stay
 “ with me one, two, or three Months, till
 “ you have provided yourself to your own
 “ mind. * * * * *

“ * * * * *

“ * * * * *

“ * * * * *

“ * * * * *

“ * * * * *

This was a great Disappointment. I clearly foresaw the dreadful Inconvenience attending my Stay at *Bridgnorth*, and, therefore, determined to desire my Brother *Tom* would let me be at *Coleby* ; but this Scheme was, likewise, prevented : I could not expect him to comply with the Request, unless moved by a very strong Degree of Pity. I received from him the following Letter, extremely kind ; as almost all his have been. My last, to my Brother *Scrope*, absolutely determined against going to *Lincoln*, unless to him.

“ Dear Sister,

Mr. Tom
 Scrope to
 Miss
 Scrope.

“ I was extremely concerned at your Deter-
 “ mination of not coming to *Lincoln* ; which
 “ I cannot help saying was in a great measure
 “ prevented by the unkind Behaviour of your
 “ Relations. I have continually blamed my
 “ Brother *Scrope*, for his Behaviour to you,
 “ and

“ and represented to him the ill Effects such
 “ Behaviour, to a Sister under your uncommon Misfortunes, must have, in regard to
 “ the Opinion the World must have of you.
 “ That he has risked his Life in your Cause,
 “ is most certain ; but that, you will say, was
 “ done for the Sake of his own Honour. You
 “ know his prevailing Passion, that has, and always will influence his Actions; for the Sake
 “ of a few Pounds, he has shut his Doors upon
 “ you, and by that done more Injury to his
 “ Character, in my Opinion, than ten Times
 “ the Expence would have done to his Fortune.

“ It will be a continual Shame to me, to
 “ see you so barbarously treated by your Relations. I wish I was in any settled Way,
 “ that my Doors might always be open to
 “ you. As to coming to *Vivians*, I think you
 “ would be very mean-spirited to accept it on
 “ any Account.

“ * * * * *

There was no longer a Possibility of my
 going to *Lincoln*. The Censures of the World,
 on my Stay at *Bridgnorth*, determined me not
 to

to be hasty. My Brother *Tom*'s Remonstrances might possibly, with a little farther Reflection on my extreme unhappy State, change my Brother *Scrope*'s Sentiments. For this Reason I still continued at Mrs. *Lee*'s till *March*. During my Stay here, the following Letters passed between Mr. *Cresswell* and me, after the Publication of his *Narrative*.

Mr. *Cress-*
well to
Miss
Scrope.

“ Betty Our G: Mother dyed last Saturday
“ of A Thrush as y^e Doctors called it after A
“ fortnights Illness she continued sensible to
“ the last I am her Sole Executor she has left
“ you twenty pounds and what of her Cloaths
“ you choose besides her Watch & dressing
“ plate she altered her will about A Month
“ before her death spoke to me about it every
“ day for A week before it was done but was
“ more pressing the three last days after that
“ affair was finished to her satisfaction she
“ seemed quite easy & happy & Doubtless
“ foresaw her approaching end tho' none else
“ thought it so near.

“ I will fend you A Ring.”

The next Letter he sent, enclosed to the Wife of a Tradesman in this Town, with strict Orders to see it burnt. I did not receive it upon these Terms, so kept it,

“ Betty,

“ Betty. I had resolved neither to write or ^{Mr. Gress-}
 “ send any Message to you whilst you keep y^e ^{well to} Miss
 “ company you do But hearing *Accidentally* I *Scrope*.
 “ hope *fortunately* y^t you were going to print
 “ & publish my letters to you I write this to
 “ desire you not to do it on any Acco^t. and y^t
 “ I may not hereafter have ought to reproach
 “ myself with But may say with truth I did
 “ every thing in My Power to save you ².

“ Some time Ago you sent me A Message y^t
 “ you desired nothing of me but what y^e law
 “ allowed I say to you if you publish my let-
 “ ters you shall not have any thing from me
 “ but what y^e law will give you—I am de-
 “ termined—I have taken some pains since y^e
 “ publick has been let into the truth of our
 “ affair to know what indifferent People
 “ strangers to us of good understanding thought
 “ of it and us My letters from London and
 “ Bristol say that you choose y^e worst part you
 “ could I. think As you were circumstanced
 “ you have Acted excessive ill publishing My
 “ letters will make me think as I am told the
 “ world does—But you have made me un-
 “ happy you have gratified your *revenge*—
 “ I am informed it has cost you something y^t
 “ you have not been quite easy notwithstand-

² A dreadful Situation, did my Safety depend upon a
 Man capable of writing the *Narrative*.

" ing y^e exquisite pleasure My torments gave
 " you I wish you ever may and y^t one con-
 " tinual fruitless repentance for your past beha-
 " viour and perhaps for your future *notwith-*
 " *standing this friendly admonition* may not con-
 " tinue as long as life. I assure you Solemnly
 " I cannot so much as guess with y^e least con-
 " fidence what you Aim at or what you w^od
 " have me do. By your manner of treating
 " this & following my *Serious* advice in not
 " publishing My letters ; I shall or shall not
 " ever write to you more if you Burn it as I
 " desire you to do before Mrs. Smallmans face
 " and in your Answer promise to serve My
 " next so I shall write again if not I never
 " shall I cant conceive why you & Lee direct
 " your Grocer to demand payment of me for
 " goods delivered for your ^a use A^d Dieu.
 " When I saw you in London you declared
 " y^t unless the affair ended as you w^od have it
 " you w^od rather dye than live intimating
 " thereby y^t you were Anxious about it ? does
 " it in y^e least depend on me if it does mind
 " what I have *seriously* said to you in this letter
 " and treat me no longer in y^e excessive foolish
 " and ridiculous manner you have done."

^a It was a Bill of about 30*l.* for Tea, Coffee and Choco-
 late, used by my Grandmother. Mr. *Cresswell* (her Execu-
 tor) refused Payment, because the Goods were ordered by
 me ; but, being threatned by the Man, paid it.

My

My Answer.

“ If you will recant those foolish, false, Miss
 “ but mischievous Lies in your *Narrative*, ^{Scrope} to Mr.
 “ and do either of the three following Things, *Cresswell*.
 “ I will not publish your Letters.
 “ 1st. Own * * * * * b was
 “ your Wife before either myself, or Miss
 “ *Warnford*, and so free us both. I verily

b In my written Answer, I had given my Reasons for this Suspicion. Page 121. A Register, found in the *Fleet*, of this Lady's and Mr. *Cresswell*'s Christian Names; and a Caution given me by a Friend, concerning this same Woman, after my Marriage in Town. A Conversation with Mr. *Cresswell* on this Subject, after my Return to *Pinkney*, he not owning the Marriage, but accusing her of a most infamous loose Behaviour, many Particulars of which he has related in the *Narrative* to have passed with me, p. 158. Reflections on this, p. 189, 190, 191. The Register shewn to me, another Conversation with my Friend, wherein she strongly confirmed all her former Suspicions: The Lady's Confessions to her, that Mr. *Cresswell* had proposed marrying her in the *Fleet*. I consulted many Friends before I printed this, and all agreed, that as there was no Certainty of a legal Proof, I should not be justified in disturbing the Peace of this Woman, and her Family, on Suspicion only, however great the Probability was. Mr. *Cresswell* too earnestly requested Mr. *Lee*, that what related to this Lady might be omitted. For these Reasons they are omitted. But if he still, without Regard to Decency or Truth, continues his inveterate Persecution, I must vindicate myself by all fair Methods; and I am very confident, had these Particulars been published, those, to whom I have appealed, would not think me blameable in my Behaviour to Mr. *Lee*.

“ believe, from some Circumstances, I have
 “ been lately acquainted with, that she is your
 “ Wife. I will, in my *Answer* to your *Narra-*
 “ *tive*, mention the Familiarities you told me
 “ passed between you, and appeal to her for
 “ the Truth of them, and your Marriage.

“ 2d. If this is not true, or you and she
 “ think it imprudent to own it; find out a
 “ Method to get me divorced from you.

“ 3d. If you don't like this, make all your
 “ Wives happy, by generously leaving this
 “ World, and seriously seeking your Fortune
 “ in the next; where, I hope, you will meet
 “ with none to make you so miserable as you
 “ have made me. *Notwithstanding this friendly*
 “ *Admonition*, I fear you will not, either acci-
 “ dentally, or fortunately, do any serious Action
 “ to promote my Happiness; but, if you do
 “ not, I shall, most undoubtedly, publish your
 “ ingenious Letters. * * * * *

I heard no more from him till *January*,
 when, in a Letter to Mr. *Lee* from *Sidbury*, he
 gives the following Answer to the first Propo-
 sal in my last.

“ Sir

Mr. *Cresswell* to Mr. *Lee*. “ * * * * *

“ * * * * *
 “ * * * * *
 “ * * * * *
 “ * * * * *
 “ * * * * *

“ * * * * * I thought she
 “ talked Idly and without design when she
 “ talked about answering the Nar—and intro-
 “ ducing A new person as if she had not
 “ made people enough already unhappy I
 “ hope she will not do it and I will determine
 “ the previous question for her whether she
 “ can be divorced or not if she can not it is
 “ not necessary if she may it is in her power
 “ to be so when ever she pleases.”

Soon after he sent a Message, by his Ser-
 vant, and another by his Steward, “ request-
 “ ing me to see and talk with him alone.”
 I refused; but wrote to him as follows :

“ Mr. *Cresswell*,

“ Had your printed Letter given a true Mis-
 “ Account of the Conversation that passed at ^{Scrope to}
 “ any of our Meetings, since this Affair has, ^{Mr. Cress-}
 “ by your own Wavering, been made publick, ^{well.}
 “ I would not have scrupled hearing your Pro-
 “ posals. If they are of Consequence, and
 “ you really see a Probability of our being ab-
 “ solutely divorced, let me have your Scheme

“ in a Letter; which, if it contains nothing
“ abusive, or any foolish Falsities, but is to
“ this Purpose, I will not take a Copy of, or
“ keep the Letter, nor shall any one else. I
“ will shew it to Mr. *Lee*, have his Opinion,
“ and burn it. You have never yet, in any
“ one Point, been deceived by me, who you
“ have deceived in every Particular, and know
“ me your much abused Wife.”

The Steward came again, and desired a positive Answer, whether I would see Mr. *Cresswell*. I sent an open Note.

“ I would have received an Answer to my Letter. I will not see you.”

No more Messages came ; but these Ex-
tracts, out of a Letter from him to Mr. Lee,
are Answers to mine.

Mr. Cress-
well to
Mr. Lee.

[illegible]

“ be

" be sure tis her own A written one I am not
 " so certain of and to be quite certain had
 " rather you was not present—If she sincerely
 " desire's it will pursue my Scheme apply to
 " the man I will recommend to her and it
 " does not answer I solemnly promise y^t I will
 " immediately seek my Fortune in y^r other
 " world—so certain am I of it's success I know
 " not what she means By saying she never de-
 " ceived me in any one Print y^t she has been
 " deceived in every particular has she printed
 " any thing or by reckoning herself part of
 " you does she attribute your surprising per-
 " formance to herself—— * * * * *

* * * * *
 * * * * *

" * * * * * You may tell her I never
 " wavered have had no conversation with her
 " since this affair was made absolutely publick
 " and for the conference as you Stiled it I
 " have to the best of My memory related no-
 " thing but truth & y^t I dont know her to be
 " my much abused wife neither can I guess
 " what she wants"

After his Arrival, at *Pinkney*, he wrote again
 to me.

" Betty

" In Answer to this part of the Message *Mr. Cress.*
 " you sent me by Tho: Child, Why did I ^{well to} Miss
 " write *Scrope.*

“ write and send messages to you every day,
 “ because I wanted to speake to you concern-
 “ ing things y^t I fancyed of consequence to
 “ both of us & why you w^od not see me and
 “ speake with me concerning y^m is beyond My
 “ comprehension By the latter part of your
 “ message, that I had and w^od make you
 “ miserable and Myself not very happy I un-
 “ derstood y^t you desired me not to prosecute
 “ you in the comons accordingly I have not
 “ and instead of wishing to make you misera-
 “ ble I infinitely desire to make you happy
 “ wanted to talk with you on y^t subject and to
 “ have directed my Actions by your desires If
 “ you define living with me the sooner you
 “ come the better on all accounts was you
 “ here Ms. Warneford w^od do My wife Justice
 “ without prosecution and all indifferent peo-
 “ ple w^od think the better of you when I was
 “ last in Shropshire you told me you had never
 “ deceived me in Print by w^h. I understand
 “ that you own an advertizement y^t was put
 “ in y^e London evening post last Oct^r. Signed
 “ M: S: signifying that I might depend on
 “ your intire Love and affection y^t all things
 “ should be soon settled to my intire satisfac-
 “ tion possibly you may think six Months soon
 “ I am sure I have not LEE said y^t your repu-
 “ tation was what he was most solicitous about
 “ had he spoke truth he w^od have let you
 “ seen

“ seen me when I was last in Shropshire and
 “ brought you hither with me and not taked
 “ foolishly of reviving an infamous affair y^e
 “ at present is dead. I did not think he w^od
 “ publish any answer because I cod not conceive
 “ it w^od advantage him, you, or me, yet as
 “ he said he w^od and you seemed to expect
 “ good from it I have waited in expectation
 “ for thò I cod not conceive &c. y^e. does not
 “ make it impossible but as it has not appeared
 “ I dont expect it—I think it best and desire
 “ you to come here immediately If ever you
 “ define living with me and I will endeavour
 “ to make all things agreeable to you and to
 “ make the remaining part of your life as
 “ happy as I can the less rout and formality
 “ the better after you are here I will do any
 “ serious action to promote your happiness If
 “ you dont define living with me tell me so
 “ that I may breake up House keeping and
 “ provide for myself for I will never live with
 “ My wife any more I am very uneasy cant
 “ support myself quite alone No Mortal to
 “ converse with have so much pity and gene-
 “ rosity as to tell me your designs—

“ If you wont live with me see me once
 “ determine not to deceive me and from what
 “ you shall then tell me I will govern myself in
 “ My dispute with parson Warneford let us end
 “ quickly

“ quickly I will either come to you meet you
 “ on the Road or do any thing you desire if
 “ you define Living with me dont engage any
 “ body till you have seen me If you do not
 “ have Justice and generosity enough to return
 “ me this letter without taking any Coppy
 “ Yours &c.”

I took no Notice of any Letter, or Message, though he perpetually plagued me with the latter, expressing great Repentance for the Publication of his *Narrative*, and earnest Requests for a Meeting.——It was to no Purpose.——

March.

What Town?

Finding nothing like an Alteration in my Brother's Resolution, not to receive me at *Lincoln*, and unable, on account of my Health, (now very indifferent) to stay longer at Mrs. Lee's, I took an House in this Town, having, for a Month before, mentioned this Intention to my Relations, hoping it would be prevented. In this Step I had only the Censure of the World to dread, which, upon my Family's Account, grieved me much. There was nothing to shock my own Peace of Mind, had I even married Mr. Lee, who, knowing my Situation, and the Impossibility of being disturbed in Point of Law, would have been no Way injured; and, in Point of Conscience, both He, and I, were morally sure of the first Marriage: Neither of them could be
 proved

proved, and therefore neither of them valid in Law. In Religion, the first only was good; so that, admitting this, neither divine, or human Laws had been offended by such a Marriage. Mr. *Lee* pressed this Argument very strongly; but I would not determine any Thing, till the *Narrative* was answered; and till that Time, entreated him not to come into my House, which he has not since the first Month, or six Weeks, of my living here, and then, but in the most publick Manner, with two or three more, upon absolute Business. Since that Time, he has not been there on any Occasion, unless I was publickly known to be, and seen, abroad. In short, I dare make an open Appeal, even to my Enemies, whether my Behaviour has been any Way reprehensible. I received another Letter from Mr. *Cresswell*.

Betty

“ On your not answering My last letter I Mr. *Cress-*
 “ was determin’d never more to write or send ^{well to} _{Mifs}
 “ to you nor to inquire after you But on *Scrope*.
 “ seeing My Narrative of our unhappy affair
 “ freshly Advertized to be sold I write this to
 “ assure y^e. I know not who did it & that it
 “ was done without My knowlege and appro-
 “ bation for tis more than 4 Months since I
 “ desired y^e M^{an} y^e recommended y^e Printer

G g

“ to

“ to me to take from him all y^e pamphlets he
 “ had remaining unfold & settle Acco^t with
 “ him.”

Even to this Time, notwithstanding so many repeated Refusals, I am perpetually tormented with Entreaties to see him, which can now answer no End. I am next to certain, that he will not attempt to prove his first Marriage; and as sure, that it is not in his Power to prove the second; or, if it was, the excessive Loss that would accrue to him, by a Dissolution of the last, would weigh heavier in his Mind than Conscience or Honour. To what End, therefore, should I consent to a Meeting, which would only torment me, as severely as a Rack could do, for the Time it lasted? The Sight of no Monster in Nature could shock me half so much, as the Sight of that Man. Nothing, therefore, but absolute Compulsion, can bring us together, and from that, I thank my God, I am secure.

I have given a true, and perfectly impartial Account of my Misfortunes, since my Infancy. I have really been forced, through mere Decency, by Silence, greatly to extenuate many of Mr. *Cresswell's* Crimes, and my own Sufferings; but I have exaggerated no one Particular. The Descriptions, in some Parts of my Distresses, are plain literal Accounts of the Behaviour,

Behaviour, occasioned by my immoderate Grief.

Many Things, asserted by him, and denied by me, are of such a Nature, they cannot be confirmed, or disproved, by any positive Evidence. In such Things, surely, I must not be condemned, because Mr. *Cresswell* has said it ; nor do I desire to be acquitted, barely on my own Word. Discerning People will discover Truth, often when most carefully hid ; and, from the Probability or Improbability of the Facts, determine the Certainty.

I cannot here give up the Opportunity of asking my Enemies a few Questions upon the Crimes Mr. *Cresswell* charges me with ; and of which, they either believe, or affect to believe, me guilty.—Could a Man, seeing such infamous Advances to him in a Girl so young, Nar. p. 2. as I was in the Year thirty-four, have the least Reason to suppose her *virtuous* ? Must he not be sure she was *vicious* ? Would any Man, of Common - Sense, in pure Compassion only, Nar. p. 5, promise to marry such a worthless Woman ? 6, 7. If he was himself good, and did really pity her, would not his Pity make him leave her ? If he was a bad Man, could a Woman, in that State, be a Moment virtuous ? Is it usual for any Sort of Vice to begin with such monstrous Steps, and take seven Years in the Completion, yet have no one Obstacle intervene ? He

and I were as Brother and Sister ; consequently, free from many Restraints, which might have embarrassed two other People : We both acknowledge the Interval between our Engagement, and his infamous Attempt, to be as long, or longer than that Time. Is it probable, that a Man, after such an easy Conquest, or rather after being, with so much Difficulty, conquered, would believe such an abandoned Wretch could be conscientiously disturbed, and yet be contented with such an idle Marriage ;

Nar.p.16. and could he be such an Idiot to marry her ?

In this first Marriage too we both agree, differing only in particular Circumstances. If all this can be believed, yet, is it farther credible, that a Man could be so circumstanced, as to be cheated into a more publick Marriage ? What

Nar.p.74. End could that answer, if the Woman agreed that it should never be proved ? Could she still plead Conscience ? If not, How did she effect this ? It is true, Mr. *Cresswell* has not directly owned this Marriage ; but, had it been false, would he not strongly have denied it ? And is not his Manner of mentioning this Particular, a Confirmation of its Truth ? If the Answer to these Questions is,—“ Yes,—all very probable ”—I should be glad to know to what Passion they will attribute that forward Behaviour ? They must not say, “ A wanton Disposition, ” since that would make their Answer still

still more unreasonable. If they say, Love ; it must have been Love to a most immoderate Excess, that could break through the Modesty of so young a Girl, naturally shy and reserved to all Mankind. How will they prove the Nar. p. 47. Probability, that a Woman so distracted with Love, and married to the very Object of her Fondness, could, by any Method, be persuaded, or forced, to share so beloved an Husband with a Rival ; nay, a Rival of such Sort, as must even cut off all her Pretensions ! Well ; but you will answer, “ The *Narrative* says, “ She was bribed to this.” A strange Woman, that could alter such violent Passions so quickly !—After this amazing Change, from Love to Avarice, this Woman has a fair Opportunity of gratifying the new Passion, by marrying a Man, with a Fortune vastly superior to her own. How will you account for her Refusal ? It could not be Conscience ; if all that is alledged in the *Narrative* be allowed, that would have been rendered tolerably complying, after so much Experience. Avarice it could not be ; for she could have no Expectation of Mr. *Cresswell*’s Money : Nor could it be Love ; because it was necessary to set that aside, in order to make her Consent to the last Marriage probable. What then, in the Name of Wonder, could induce a Girl (who had acted as the *Narrative* describes) to refuse a

Marriage, advantageous in Point of Interest, and extreme likely, as I have mentioned, to preserve a Character, that the first of my Sex would have been proud of. In short; I would ask my Enemies, whether Miss *Scrope*, in the *Narrative*, is even a possible Character? If they must say, No, I hope they will not contradict their own Sentiments, in oppressing a poor Wretch, who (from both Accounts is plain) has long been subjected to an heavy Load of Misery. If they will still persecute me, they have my Forgiveness very sincerely: I was Miss *Scrope*, with the fairest of Characters, caressed by all my Acquaintance. My good God! What an unhappy Change! I now am Miss *Scrope*, thought of by too many as represented in the *Narrative*,—Visited by hardly any of those, who before industriously sought my Acquaintance;—affronted, frequently, by People, who suppose, that Piece of Inhumanity a Proof of their own Virtue.—My true Character known but to few; my bad Fame known, perhaps, as generally as that of a Woman in my private Station can be.—I am still, within myself, the same I ever was; easy, contented, and (except in the Troubles I have fatally laid upon Mr. *Lee*, and my Brothers) happy: The Want of Company is no Loss to me; but the Loss of my Reputation is, indeed, a grievous one; and what I
would

would have preserved at any virtuous Expence. Being free from Mr. *Cresswell*, balances a vast deal of Uneasiness, which else would be insupportable. Few Women meet with so compleat a Villain as Mr. *Cresswell*; and still fewer with so amazingly sincere a Friend as Mr. *Lee*. He must not condemn me for being cautious, in Regard to his Proposal of Marriage. In Publick I will acknowledge, what, in private, nothing could have forced me to own; that, consulting my own Opinion only, I would marry him: But I have been too wretchedly unfortunate to depend on that only, therefore, will govern my Resolution by better Judgments.

Long Experience, in Afflictions, gives a Degree of Patience, and Inclination to forgive, which, perhaps, no other Lesson can teach. Revenge, even for Injuries, great as my own, would not prompt me to inflict a greater Punishment upon Mr. *Cresswell*, than he already ought to suffer, from his own Reflections. May those Reflections point out his Crime so strong, that he may see the Necessity, and feel the Happiness of Repentance. Few Men, so young, have been so wicked.

My Enemies can hurt me no farther, and, indeed, *Publickly* they have succeeded but too well. *There*, Report alone is sufficient for Condemnation: *Privately*, among my Neighbours, they must fail. *Here*, or wherever

I may after this Time live, my Manner of Life will destroy any Report to my Discredit.

Though, till now, I have made no publick Defence; yet some Friends have warmly defended my Cause. Such have my sincere Thanks. I hope my future Behaviour will confirm their Esteem; and they, with the rest of my Judges, to whom I have appealed, will now know, what they only believed before, the Innocence of their much obliged

Eliza. Scrope.

N^o. 907.

*Aug. 20,
1748.*

